

Perry: Diplomacy on Korea working

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary William Perry said Friday the U.N. Security Council's call on North Korea to allow open inspection of its nuclear sites shows diplomacy is working, but a final resolution is far away. "It is working, yes," Mr. Perry told reporters when asked if the Security Council's approval of the call late Thursday showed diplomacy is working. "We have a long way to go, though."

Mr. Perry made the comment before a meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sang-joo who said of the Security Council statement earlier: "This is a very good move." (see page 8). Mr. Han made that comment on NBC's "Today" programme despite U.N. Korea's defiance of the U.N. call with a declaration by its U.N. ambassador that it has nothing more to show international inspectors for now. But Mr. Han, who went to U.N. headquarters Thursday, said that "North Korea will have to respond because the Security Council will be watching and there will be further consideration if there is no progress."

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Fateh offices closed

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) ordered the closure of its mainstream Fateh organisation in the occupied territories in protest over Israeli actions against its members. But sources indicated Friday the closure was triggered by infighting. PLO Leader Yasser Arafat issued the orders to close nine Fateh offices in the occupied West Bank and six in the Gaza Strip late Thursday, said Sufian Abu Zaida, head of the PLO liaison office in Gaza. He added that the main Fateh office in East Jerusalem as well as the central office in Gaza City will remain open. The head of the Fateh office in the West Bank town of Tulkarim, Dr. Thabet Thabet, said the order was to protest the army's crackdown against Fateh activists and specifically the killing in Gaza Monday of six members of the Fateh Hawks. Dr. Thabet said he understood the closure to be temporary. But sources inside Fateh said Mr. Arafat's orders were part of the power struggle that has plagued the PLO since it started negotiating the long-delayed accord with Israel.

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Ben Alawi leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi left Amman on Friday at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan during which he met with Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker and senior Jordanian officials. Mr. Ben Alawi discussed with the Jordanian officials bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common interest. Mr. Ben Alawi was seen off by Sharif Zeid, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, the Omani ambassador in Amman and senior Foreign Ministry officials. Mr. Ben Alawi arrived here Thursday to convey a message from Sultan Qaboos of Oman to His Majesty King Hussein.

France backs Jordan's demand

AMMAN (Petra) — The French Ambassador in Amman Bernard Bajolet said in an interview with the programme "Sixty minutes" telecast by Jordan Television Friday that France supported Jordan's demand that inspection operations of Aqaba-bound ships be shifted to land. "My government wants resolution to be adopted in this respect soon," he said.

Israel: Arabs killed Israeli as test

TEL AVIV (R) — Police told an Israeli court on Friday two Palestinians killed a Jew this week to win entry into the Fateh Hawks. The news agency quoted a police officer telling a magistrate in Kfar Sava, central Israel, that Abu Musa Atiya, 23, and Shabib Azzam, 21, of the Gaza Strip stabbed and fatally wounded Isaac Rotenberg, 70, as an "initiation test." The court remanded Mr. Atiya and Mr. Azzam in custody for 15 days. Rotenberg was attacked in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikva on Tuesday, a day after undercover soldiers shot dead six Fateh activists in a Gaza refugee camp. Rotenberg died in hospital on Thursday. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Nayef Hawatmeh had claimed responsibility for killing Rotenberg.

Iran wants Haj talks with Saudis

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's foreign minister on Friday called for talks with Saudi Arabia to solve a running dispute over the number of pilgrims Tehran is allowed to send to the annual Muslim pilgrimage. Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said the problem could not be solved by Iran alone. "Bilateral or multilateral issues cannot be solved on a unilateral basis. One should never lose sight of this fact and try to solve the matter on a unilateral basis," Mr. Yazdi said in a sermon at Tehran University.

Iranians to stand trial for Bakhtiar murder

PARIS (R) — Nine Iranians are to be tried in France, six of them in absentia, in connection with the murder of former Iranian Premier Shapur Bakhtiar, judicial sources said on Friday. They said a Paris court endorsed a report by Investigating Magistrate Jean-Louis Brugère recommending that the nine should stand trial before the Paris assize court for murder and complicity to murder.

U.S. soldier found guilty of beheading

KANAU (AP) — A court-martial jury convicted a U.S. army sergeant Friday of premeditated murder for beheading his wife's lover. Stephen Schap, 26, of Baltimore, stood guilty with his defense lawyers, as Colonel Gerald E. Luttrell, ranking officer of the jury, announced the verdict. Sgt. Schap repeatedly stabbed his friend, Gregory Glover, 21, of Phoenix, decapitated him and took the head to his wife in a hospital where she was being treated for a pregnancy problem. The defence had argued that Sgt. Schap was in an irrational rage after learning that his wife was pregnant by his friend.

PLO wants observer force quickly in Hebron

Israel has own view of foreign unit's role, says pace of self-rule upto PLO

CAIRO (Agencies) — With the arrival of a senior Norwegian police official Sunday in Cairo, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials will be taking steps to quickly organise the armed foreign observers going to protect Hebron's Palestinians.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said Friday that Kjell Johansen, head of Norway's observer contingent, will discuss with Palestinians the schedule for moving into the West Bank town.

"The Norwegians are ready and I hope they will be there very soon," he said. He said the target was "as soon as possible, no later than a week."

But more than travel plans are needed to set up the 160-member force specified in the agreement that the PLO and Israel signed Thursday to restart their peace talks (see page 10). The PLO called off the talks after a Jewish settler massacred dozens of worshippers Feb. 25 at a mosque in Hebron.

Now the role of the observers must be defined, and Israelis and Palestinians already are expressing different views. The issue will be sensitive since Israel has never before accepted armed foreign forces in the territories it has occupied for 26 years, arguing this challenged its "sovereignty."

Mr. Johansen, who was chief of U.N. police in the former Yugoslavia, could be an influential in formulating the force's role. Norway helped negotiate Thursday's agreement and will contribute 90 observers.

Denmark, which is contributing 35 observers, also is sending a delegation to Cairo on Sunday. The other 35 observers will be Italian.

Under the agreement, the observers will monitor Palestinian security in Hebron for three months, with their mandate renewable. They will have no police or military duties and will report to a PLO-Israeli committee and one representing their own countries.

The observers will carry pistols "for self-defence," wear uniforms with distinctive emblems and drive cars with similar markings.

For Dr. Shaath the uniforms and guns were important. Asked if he wished to see expanded duties for the observers, he replied: "At this stage, we are happy that they are there and — not hidden as civilians in Pierre Cardin jackets sitting in air conditioned offices."

The guns were not just for the observers' self-protection but "a symbol of their authority," he said.

Dr. Shaath also wants the

Hebron observers to serve as a precedent for Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho, areas where Israel is expected to withdraw its forces after peace negotiations are completed.

"With the example of Hebron it would be very easy to do the same for Gaza and Jericho," Dr. Shaath said.

But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin saw the observer force as "an exception" created by the Hebron massacre.

Mr. Rabin's views also seem at odds with Norway's plan to recruit observers with police or military backgrounds. They will be operating in a tense town where 450 Jewish settlers live among 80,000 Palestinians. The settlers often swagger through the streets toting automatic guns to show their power.

But Mr. Rabin said Thursday that Israel had suggested at least some of the observers should carry out municipal duties — "economic, engineering, and education" jobs.

And Israel's deputy defence minister, Mordechai Gur, said he expected "the vast majority" of observers to be civilians working on social services.

Mr. Gur also made clear that Israel would not accept the observers taking charge of

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ENTRY DENIED: An elderly Palestinian argues with an Israeli soldier on Friday after he was denied access to Al Aqsa Mosque for noon prayers (see story below)

Government may raise individual income tax to JD5,000-6,000

By Sa'ed Silawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Friday the government was considering a proposal to exempt the first JD5,000-JD6,000 of individual income from income tax.

In an interview with Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Dr. Majali said the government was reconsidering a number of laws, including the law on encouragement of investments with a view to ending cutting down bureaucracy and facilitating procedures to attract more investments.

On criticism levelled against official media, the prime minister said the Ministry of Information had worked out a strategy which has adopted last year, but since the minister was

replaced and the new minister had been heavily preoccupied with important issues, the official media has looked as if they were lagging behind. He noted that the information strategy needed people who believe in it in order to translate it into reality on the ground.

The prime minister said Jordanian press had developed tremendously and stressed that the government did not exploit its ownership of newspapers' shares to influence the freedom of opinion or expression.

Dr. Majali said the government plans to introduce elected district councils in its efforts to decentralise work at governorate and district levels. "Decentralisation will turn us into a very advanced state," he said.

On the Aqaba siege, Dr. Majali said Jordan had in-

formed Syria of its decision to stay away from Arab-Israeli peace talks until the siege on Aqaba is lifted. Dr. Majali said the siege undermines peace, adding that "one cannot talk peace at a time when he is besieged."

On United Nations Security Council Resolution 904 on the Hebron massacre, Dr. Majali reiterated Jordan's firm position towards Jerusalem.

"Sovereignty on Jerusalem will only be of God's, and not of Israel's," he said. The United States has not recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, Dr. Majali said. The inclusion by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of Jerusalem in Resolution 904 was done in good intention because "we and the PLO believe in the Arab identity of Jerusalem."

Christians mark Good Friday in tension-high Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Rain-drenched pilgrims chanting "Jesus loves you" marched through Old Jerusalem's narrow, cobblestoned alleys Friday as they retraced the steps of Jesus on his way to his crucifixion.

But the traditional Good Friday observance came amid heightened tensions and rare thunder showers, drawing only 5,000 pilgrims instead of the tens of thousands of past years.

The rituals come five weeks after a Jewish settler massacred dozens of Muslim worshippers in a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron, sparking widespread violence in the occupied territories.

Scores of Arab Christians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were unable to get to Jerusalem because of army roadblocks and curfews.

Troops barred Muslims from Jerusalem's Via Dolorosa in the holy land.

Israeli security forces were out in force within the walled Old City to prevent clashes following five weeks of Arab-Israeli violence triggered by the Hebron massacre.

Soldiers used clubs to beat off Muslims rushing for noon prayers at Al Aqsa while Jews gathered at the wall below for the end of their Passover holiday.

"We cannot wait any longer. We will miss our midday prayers, let us pass," shouted an old Arab man, echoing cries from a group of Muslims who use the Via Dolorosa route to reach the mosque. The soldiers ignored their pleas.

Christian pilgrims carried wooden crosses and sang hymns while walking in the rain to the traditional site of Jesus' tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Some wore black armbands to mourn victims of the Hebron massacre as they made their way along the narrow alleys of the 14 "stations of the cross" where they believe Jesus stopped on his way to being crucified.

Jerusalem's Old City has been a flashpoint of rising anger throughout the occupied territories over the Hebron killing.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) halted negotiations with Israel on li-



A placard shows six members of Fateh Hawks killed by Israeli soldiers on March 28 as thousands of Palestinians gather in mourning in the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza (AFP photo)

mitted Palestinian self-rule after the massacre but agreed in Cairo on Thursday to resume the talks when the two sides signed a deal on security arrangements for Hebron.

The Assembly of the Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land called on Friday for the removal of Jewish settlers from the occupied territories to achieve a lasting peace.

"The settlers have condemned themselves. They have shown that they cannot coexist with others. Therefore they must go elsewhere," it said in an Easter message.

But violence over the Hebron killings did not dissuade many tourists from around the world from visiting holy sites. Catholics and Protestants from Egypt joined in the Good Friday procession for the first time since the 1978 Camp

Finis draws fire by hailing Mussolini

ROME (Agencies) — Far-right leader Gianfranco Fini, who is poised to take his party into Italy's new government, drew fire from the left by hailing Benito Mussolini as a great statesman.

"I would say he was the greatest statesman of the century," Mr. Fini told La Stampa newspaper in an interview.

Mr. Fini's national alliance, one of whose members is Mussolini's granddaughter Alessandra, is part of a pact led by media mogul Silvio Berlusconi that swept to power in this week's elections.

The interview was published as Mr. Berlusconi met Northern League federalists, the other main component of the pact, to discuss the new government.

Mr. Fini's remarks quickly drew fire from the ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), which was humiliated by Mr. Berlusconi in the election.

"The fact he chose to say this today shows he still regards Mussolini as a model for the future," said PDS executive member Claudio Petruccioli.

"We all know what the state of liberty was in this country when the greatest statesman of the century was in power."

Mr. Fini's comments were his first on Mr. Mussolini since the elections, which marked his party's greatest success since the dictator's rule.

He added in the interview: "Berlusconi would have to pedal hard to show he belongs to history like Mussolini. Two identical men are not born in a year and not even in a century."

Mr. Fini's press office confirmed he had made the remarks.

Newspapers reported Thursday that Mr. Berlusconi reached an agreement with the autonomy-minded Northern League and the National Alliance on sharing cabinet posts.

U.N. to send 800 troops to Gorazde

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations will station some 800 troops in a Bosnian Muslim enclave under attack by rebel Serbs despite its status as a "safe haven," U.N. sources said on Friday.

Government-run Bosnian radio reported heavy shelling of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia for a fourth consecutive day on Friday, with fighting on the right bank of the Drina River dividing it.

Shelling of the enclave has killed at least six people, including an 11-year-old girl and her eight-year-old brother, and wounded 97, U.N. officials said.

Some 3,500 reinforcements for the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia were approved by the Security Council on Thursday, and the sources said an 800-strong Ukrainian battalion would be assigned to Gorazde.

"They have been organised, prepared and trained and as soon as they arrive in this country, off to Gorazde," one source told Reuters.

They would arrive almost a year after Gorazde and five other Muslim-held enclaves under Serb siege were designated "safe havens" by the Security Council.

Only two of the six received fresh U.N. troops quickly to enforce the resolution. Two others including Sarajevo were pacified this year with troops from elsewhere in former Yugoslavia, while Gorazde and Bihac, still without reinforcements, continued to be shelled by Serbs.

U.N. sources said Muslim and Serb military commanders in Bihac, north-west Bosnia, had tentatively agreed to a ceasefire during talks on Thursday brokered by the U.N.

Bosnian radio reported that the two sides had agreed on the separation of their forces, the creation of buffer zones, the withdrawal of U.N. supervision and freedom of movement for humanitarian organisations.

Elsewhere in the former Yugoslav republic, however, Serb forces were reported to

have stepped up attacks on Muslim-led government forces, who are no longer fighting Bosnian Croats since a new Muslim-Croat federation was agreed last month.

Major Rob Amink of UNPROFOR in Sarajevo told reporters the Serbs were now turning their guns on parts of central Bosnia that had been quiet since the Croat-Muslim agreement.

He said Serb forces fired three artillery rounds on Thursday into the centre of Zenica, the biggest government-controlled city in the region, and five more into the Turbe-Travnik region just to the north-west.

U.N. sources said this sudden upsurge in Serb attacks in central Bosnia might have been provoked by recent Bosnian army infantry probes against Serb positions.

The Bosnian army's attempted thrust westward out of the Maglaj pocket to dislodge Serb forces and widen a slender supply corridor from the south had also inflamed tensions, they said.

In a Serb stronghold in northern Bosnia, up to nine Muslim civilians were reported to have been killed by Serb nationalists, apparently in retaliation for the deaths of six local Serb policemen in fighting against Muslim troops.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said in Zagreb that nine Muslim civilians had been killed in Prijedor in the past few days, and "strongly condemns these atrocities which are in blatant violation of the most basic rules of humanity."

It asked Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to take urgent measures to restore security to the Prijedor area.

In Sarajevo, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Kris Janowski, said at least seven Muslims had been murdered in the past week in Prijedor, notorious for savage "ethnic cleansing" campaigns against Muslims in 1992.

Palestinian police start going in this week

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The implementation of the Gaza-Jericho first accord will begin this week with the entry of up to 300 Palestinian policemen from Jordan and Egypt into Jericho and Gaza, Palestinian officials in Amman and Tunis confirmed Friday.

Ten Palestinian police officers are expected to head for the occupied territories on Tuesday to prepare logistics for the entry of the Palestinian policemen; 150 of whom would be stationed in Jericho and another 150 in Gaza.

Tunis-based Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said that "no dates were for certain." Amman-based officials tipped Thursday April 7 to be the date of entry for 150 policemen from Amman into Jericho and 150 policemen from Egypt into Gaza.

"I can confirm that the implementation of the Oslo accord will begin this week but the exact timetable is not yet known," Marwan Kanafani, the spokesman for Palestine President Yasser Arafat told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Friday.

50 expellees to go home

AT LEAST 50 Palestinians expelled by Israel for anti-fundamentalist activities will be allowed to return home this week, a Palestinian spokesman said Friday. Many of over 2,000 Palestinians expelled for political reasons since 1967 were tipped to return in May 1993 when Israel allowed a token 30 to return, but refused to allow those who had been expelled for anti-fundamentalist activities to go home.

"The names should be agreed upon by Sunday if all goes well," a PLO official in Amman told the Jordan Times on Friday. Tunis-based spokesman Marwan Kanafani confirmed that "there are plans for the return of deportees this week," but refused to give further details.

Former student union president of Bir Zeit University Marwan Barghout, Palestine Peoples Party executive committee member Tayseer Aruri and Akhsa Odeh, a prominent political activist of FIDA, are expected to be among the first batch of expellees allowed to return. Some PLO officials had tipped that a return may be possible as early Monday or Tuesday.

Indicating that the PLO leadership expected the April 13 deadline for initial Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho to be met, he said: "Dates are sacred. Agreements depend on dates and if the dates are not respected then the agreements themselves come into question."

The gradual deployment of up to 7,000 or more policemen who are currently stationed in Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Yemen and Libya is expected to be completed by mid-May, a senior PLO official said in Amman.

"We expect that the final number of policemen in Gaza and Jericho will be between 10,000 and 15,000 once training begins inside the occupied territories," said the PLO official. Half the Palestinian police force will be drawn from new recruits and Palestinians who used to serve in an Israeli-run police force inside the occupied territories, according to PLO officials.

Israel tried to impose limitations on the number of the police force but, according to Mr. Kanafani, "they have changed their stand. It seems that it is no longer an issue."

"At least 3,000 policemen are stationed in Jordan and we are ready to move into Jericho

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Other Flights (Terminal 2)		HUAH RAILWAY TRAIN	
04:20	Vienna (OA)	Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
11:36	Sana'a (YV)	Arr. Damascus	5:30 p.m. every Monday
15:49	Rome (AZ)	Dep. Damascus	5:30 p.m. every Monday
19:45	Dubai (EM)	Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday
23:30	Paris, Damascus (AF)		
23:30	Amsterdam (KL)		
23:30	Cairo (MS)		

DEPARTURES		MARKET PRICES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights		Uppertlower price in fils per kg.	
(Terminal 1)			
07:50	Beirut (RJ)	Apple	5500 (600)
12:35	Aqaba (RJ)	Banana	5000 (600)
12:45	Paris, Brussels (RJ)	Banana (Mukammarr)	6000 (600)
12:45	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)	Cabbage	2500 (170)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)	Carrot	2000 (170)
21:15	London (RJ)	Cauliflow	1000 (60)
21:15	Larnaca (RJ)	Clementine	200 (120)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	Cucumbers (large)	150 (100)
21:45	Damascus (RJ)	Cucumbers (small)	270 (180)
22:50	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	Eggplant	200 (120)
22:50	Brussels (RJ)	Garlic	1000 (60)
		Grain Fruit	2000 (170)
		Green beans	400 (20)
		Lemon	140 (90)
		Musrow (large)	1400 (90)
		Musrow (small)	250 (150)
		Orange	50 (30)
		Onion (dry)	400 (20)
		Onion (green)	200 (10)
		Pears	250 (150)
		Pepper (green)	200 (10)
		Pepper (sweet)	200 (10)
		Potato	350 (20)
		Radish	120 (60)
		Tomato	300 (20)
		Soybean	300 (20)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:15	Beirut (ME)
13:50	Sana'a (YV)
18:45	Vienna (OA)
23:55	Dubai (EM)
23:55	Damascus (AF)
23:55	Cairo (MS)

Specialists assail press coverage of Zarqa child murder

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The sexual assault and brutal murder of eight-year-old Lo'ai Araiqat more than two weeks ago in Zarqa not only shocked the Jordanian community, but the reporting of the incident by "some newspapers" enraged media specialists, human rights activists and others.

Most described the handling of the story by some as "revolting and vulgar."

Lo'ai's body was found in Zarqa on March 16, four days after the boy was reported missing. Police later announced the arrest of a 58-year-old man in connection with the assault and murder.

"Certainly it is sensationalism, and we have to accept it and call it what it is," said Ziad Rifai, the head of the Communications Department at Yarmouk University. Dr. Rifai was referring to articles which gave graphic details of the crime as allegedly confessed by the man arrested in the case, as well as colour photographs of the victim's severed body printed on the front pages of three Arabic newspapers.

He strongly opposed the printing of the pictures and an interview, made under false pretenses, with the suspect, that was carried by the weekly, describing both as cheap and revolting.

"We have to keep in mind that family and friends of the victim are going to see the pictures and read the stories," Dr. Rifai said.

"The boy had died, and that is certainly not the way he should be remembered," he added.

Although the public needs to learn about its tragic

story, Dr. Rifai maintained, "there are more appropriate ways to present a story like this."

Dr. Rifai found some of the front page headlines highly unethical and irresponsible. He was referring to headlines quoting the suspect as boasting about his virility with men as well as women.

"If these headlines were read by a child or a teenager, what would their reaction be?"

He also said there were distinct contradictions between the suspect's quotes and the way he represented himself as a killer, and police reports describing the suspect.

He said, while press reports said the suspect showed remorse for the crime saying that he was intoxicated when he allegedly killed Lo'ai, police said that the suspect was stubborn and did not cry or show any emotion or signs of regret when he was arrested.

One headline read: "I am a monster and I don't deserve to live," another headline read: "For God's sake allow me to kill myself. I wish all people would spit on me."

"These headlines seem to justify the killer's intentions and to present his statements in a remorseful way, and it is obvious that the sole purpose of such headlines was to sell newspapers," Dr. Rifai said.

Asma Khader, president of the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) also strongly criticised the way the press carried the crime, saying that whoever allowed the pictures and interview to be published failed to take into consideration the reaction of and effects on the society that such reporting styles might

have.

"The published pictures were horrible, and I had to hide the newspapers away from my children," said Ms. Khader, an attorney.

"They (the press) did not consider what such a story could do to our society, socially, psychologically or educationally."

Ms. Khader said the story itself has placed several challenges before Jordanians to find ways to avoid such incidents from recurring.

A specialist at the Ministry of Social Development told the Jordan Times that the coverage of the crime lacked objectivity as well as sensitivity.

The specialist, who preferred not to be identified, said the press has an important message to deliver to the public, and "it is up to the media to be more responsible and mature in using the freedom they enjoy."

He blamed the newspaper that published the interview with the suspect and the pictures of the boy's body, saying that publishing such things certainly does not help in lifting the society's moral standards, nor was it a public service.

"Children's rights were totally abused and destroyed, and the way some media carried the issue was as bad as the crime itself, and it certainly did not serve our community," he said.

Suhair Al Tal, a researcher on women's and children's issues and a former journalist, also found fault with some of the newspaper reports, saying, "It is important for the press to talk about the murder, but they need to know how to direct such reports, since they are dealing

with various sectors of society."

The press concentrated on sensationalism rather than focusing on the crime itself and the delinquency in general.

"This is an offence to the whole community because they did not take into consideration that families and children are interested as well," she said.

Ms. Al Tal said the toughest task she faced after the publishing of the story was how to answer her eight-year-old daughter's question: "What does 'I have sex five times a day' mean?" referring to a front page headline quoting the murder suspect.

Sociologist Suleiman Sweiss, who edits a weekly feature page on human rights in Al Shaab daily, focused on the statements allegedly made by the suspect in the Shiban interview.

Mr. Sweiss said the interview revealed several important hidden issues in the society, which were shocking to many people.

In the interview, the suspect allegedly said "I have sex when I want with anyone I can lay a hand on in the streets or in prostitution houses — you know the country is full of these things."

"These statements, along with others 'ouch every parent and anyone who has a sense of parenthood.'"

Mr. Sweiss called on the authorities to take strict action against such conduct, and called for implementing legislation resulting from the enforcement on children's rights held in Jordan last May.

"There needs to be legal protection for abused children, and a strong punishment for the abusers," Mr. Sweiss told the Jordan Times.

Ms. Khader said that this experience has proved that specialised educational programmes are needed for parents and children on ways to protect themselves.

She said the JWU is planning to hold an ecology in memory of Lo'ai and will organise lectures for women in the Zarqa area on their rights, with the aim of encouraging them to stand up and complain if they are abused by their husbands.

"If the suspect's wife stood up and announced what was really going on in her house we would not have to deal with this issue."

Ms. Al Tal suggested that the crime resulted from complex relations in the Jordanian society which caused a malfunction in some families.

"It seems that there is some malfunctioning in some families in the Kingdom and it is manifested in the way parents approach their children, educationally and on the sexual education level," she said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Development specialist said the ministry is planning to conduct a special study on this case, in addition, he said it was going to concentrate on studying Zarqa city as an individual case, because there is population density with large families, and an increasing number of school drop-outs and family disintegrations in that area.

According to Dr. Rifai, "we need to understand how our society produced a person like that... how many people are like that... we need a social study of this issue are its social perspectives."

Authorities to make Zarqa, Ruseifa squatters pay for land

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is working to settle the problem of the illegal acquisition of state-owned land by some inhabitants of the Zarqa and Ruseifa regions, according to statements by ministers of finance and interior Sami Gammoh and Salameh Hammad.

Addressing a public meeting Thursday in Zarqa, Mr. Gammoh said 36 teams from the Department of Lands and Survey are currently dividing and apportioning the lands occupied by the squatters who, he said, have already built homes on them. The teams will determine the reasonable price of these lands to be paid to the state's treasury in settlement of the

issue, he added.

Thousands of dunums are involved, said Mr. Gammoh, adding that by the apportionment and pricing work would be completed on at least the lands within the Zarqa region.

After appropriate payment is made by inhabitants the issue of their illegal encroachment on state-owned property will have ended, said Mr. Hammad.

Both ministers said they have instructed municipal councils to stop supplying water and other essential services to homes constructed on land already surveyed by the department, whose owners failed to pay the land prices, as estimated by the

survey teams.

According to the interior minister, tribes inhabiting the Zarqa and Ruseifa regions have been creating problems by their illegal acquisition of state-owned land, claiming it to be theirs.

He said that a decision taken by the late King Abdullah in 1945, to allow tribes to settle in state-owned land, no longer applies because the targeted tribes have already benefited from that earlier measure and settled in specific regions a long time ago.

That decision, he added, does not entitle any tribe or individual citizen to claim ownership of state-owned land any longer.

JD 5m private ophthalmological, ENT hospital under construction

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Barring any obstacles, the first private ophthalmological and ear, nose and throat specialty hospital in Jordan should be operational within one year, according to Jamil Qassem Nasser, president of the Jordanian Ophthalmological Society (JOS).

The Ibn Al Haitham Ophthalmological ENT Hospital being constructed in the western suburbs of Amman in the vicinity of the University of Jordan will have a 57-bed capacity and is designed to provide high level services to patients from Jordan and the region, as well as training to medical students, Dr. Nasser told the Jordan Times Friday.

The health care establishment was initially estimated to cost JD 1.7 million, but a decision by the owners to purchase and install CAT (computerised axial tomography) as well as MRI (magnetic resonance imaging equipment), has brought the cost to at least JD 5 million, Dr. Nasser said.

He said the Applied Sciences University has as 51 per cent share of the equity of the enterprise, and local specialists, mostly ophthalmologists, own the remaining shares.

In a ceremony held at the building site Thursday, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid laid the foundation stone for the new hospital.

The hospital's executive manager, Mohammad Saleh Nour, said the endeavour is the realisation of many specialists' dream.

The hospital management will set up multi-purpose conference halls, and training sections for doctors, and will

collaborate with international ophthalmological institutions in Europe and the United States, said Dr. Nour.

President of the Jordanian ENT Society Hassan Badran addressed the ceremony saying that specialists have hitherto conducted their operations in Jordanian hospitals that are not properly equipped for ophthalmological or ENT treatment, and it is hoped that the new hospital will provide an ideal facility for such operations.

He said the high level medical services at the new hospital would sharply reduce the drain on hard currency spent by Jordanians on specialised medical services abroad.

Among those present at the ceremony was Ishaq Marqaa, president of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA).

CAA recommends QAIA be run as commercial entity

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has recommended to the government that the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) be operated on a purely commercial basis in a bid to reduce current operational expenses and to pave the way for privatising the airport at a later stage, according to an announcement by CAA Director General Ahmad Jweiber.

The CAA also recommended that a study be made on the feasibility of linking the airport with Amman by a railway, to facilitate grand transportation, said Mr. Jweiber Friday.

The QAIA was designed to accommodate three million passengers annually, but it has so far been operating at half this capacity, said the CAA chief.

He said the CAA has started on a five-year-plan to upgrade the services of the airport, which was inaugurated in 1983, and boost its 24-hour services.

As of the beginning of 1994, the CAA began contacts to purchase buses to transport CAA officials, purchased a hydraulic crane for the maintenance services sector and installed new meteorology and lighting systems for the airport, Mr. Jweiber said.

Currently, the CAA is refurbishing the departure and arrival terminals and upgrading the training of its airport staff, added the CAA chief.

Mr. Jweiber said that 18 Arab and foreign airlines benefit from the airport's services in addition to Royal Jordanian and Arab Wings.

He said at least four non-Jordanian airlines have not yet resumed flights to Jordan following the Gulf crisis.

Suspects said to reveal year-old assassination plots

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who was then head of Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel, and several Palestinian peace negotiators were targeted in assassination plots by an extremist group more than one year ago, sources said Friday.

The sources said the plots, which appeared not to have been given final shape, were revealed by suspects during interrogation related to a series of blasts and attempted bombings in Amman and Zarqa in January and February this year.

Most of the 23 suspects, expected to be formally charged and tried at the State Security Court later this month, are believed to be ex-volunteers who fought alongside the Afghan resistance during their 1980-90 battle against the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

They returned home following the disintegration of the so-called Arab Afghan group after the Soviet agreement to quit Afghanistan in 1989.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the investigations also involved

Osama Al Laden, a Saudi millionaire of Yemeni origin, who is suspected of financing "Arab Afghans" to carry out subversion in Egypt and Yemen.

But the sources said details were sketchy of any direct involvement by Mr. Laden in the bombings and plots in Jordan, but it was found during investigations that the Arab Afghan group had received finances from abroad.

"They had their own local resources, but used to have frequent foreign visitors who financed them further," said the source. "The role of Osama Al Laden, if at all there was one, was not of the nature that was described in the local press." The source declined to elaborate.

Some reports have suggested that Mr. Laden was the mastermind behind the sabotage in Jordan and was in direct contact with some of the suspects in the case.

The Yemeni government accuses Mr. Laden of being the brains and financier behind a spate of bombings and has sought help from the International Police Organisation (Interpol) to arrest him. Similarly, the Egyptian government is also in pursuit of the man, who it accuses of financing extremist Muslim groups waging a war

against the government of President Hosni Mubarak.

Most Arab Afghans are believed to be fiercely anti-Western and are vehement opponents of the 28-month-old U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace process launched in Spain.

The sources declined to confirm or deny whether the suspects, who are expected to be charged with "carrying out and plotting terrorist activities" and "illegal possession of explosives," would face additional charges in connection with the assassination plots against Dr. Majali and others.

One source said: "Some of the suspects revealed during questioning that they planned to stage an attack against Dr. Majali, but it seems that the plot did not get off beyond the planning stage."

According to the source, the suspects had planned to pose as journalists and seek an interview with Dr. Majali and attack him during the interview. "No contacts were made to arrange an appointment for the interview, according to the suspects," said the source.

Similarly, the suspects also told interrogators that they planned to plant bombs in the hotel rooms of Palestinian delegates to the peace talks with Israel. "They planned to enlist the help of an employee at the hotel where the delegates stay during their transits through Jordan," said the source, quoting what he said were revelations by the suspects in detention. "They wanted the hotel employee to help plant bombs in the delegates' hotel rooms."

Again, the plot did not get off the ground beyond planning among the group's members, according to the source. No immediate explanation was available why the suspects froze the alleged plots.

The 23 suspects in custody were filtered from dozens who were rounded up after the Jan. 26 bombing at Amman's downtown Rivoli cinema and the Feb. 2 blast at Zarqa's Salwa movie house as well as the discovery of primed explosives at another Amman movie house and a supermarket.

Nine people were injured in the explosions. One of them, a plumber identified as Eid Jabaleen and a resident of the Beqaa refugee camp outside Amman, lost his limbs in the Zarqa bombing, which went away from the bomb exploded prematurely.

Mr. Jabaleen confessed to police from his hospital bed that he had planted the bomb upoo the instigation of another man, who was identified as Mohammad Shehadeh, a construction equipment salesman described as an Arab Afghan.

The confession and other clues available to police led to the arrest of Mr. Shehadeh as well as other suspects.

Six of the suspects confessed to the bombings and attempted attacks at the actual sites, the sources confirmed, adding that the sprawling Housing Bank complex was among the buildings targeted for bombing by the group.

In 1992, members of a group calling itself "Jeish Mohammad (Mohammad's army)" and made up mostly of Arab Afghans were accused and tried for a series of attacks and attempted plots against nightclubs, videocassette shops, liquor stores, government officials, diplomats and security personnel.

Eighteen of them were convicted and sentenced. Eight, including two in absentia, were sentenced to death. The death penalties of the six who were physically present in court during the trial were later commuted to life sentences by His Majesty King Hussein.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonn to help 'ease' impact of sanctions

AQABA (Petra) — German Minister of Labour Norbert Blum said that Germany will work within the context of the United Nations to ease the negative impact to Jordan of the sanctions imposed on Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The German minister, who Thursday concluded a several-day visit to the Kingdom, said he hoped that the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan will soon disappear, pointing to the great losses inflicted on the country as a result of its process of the inspecting Aqaba-bound ships by U.S. enforcers of the embargo. The 14-year-old, who was Wednesday received by His Majesty King Hussein, said Germany was keenly interested in the Middle East peace process, noting that the success of the process would be a success to the whole world, taking into consideration the importance of the region. The German minister visited several tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan before ending his visit. He was seen off at Aqaba airport by Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi.

Health minister returns from Cairo meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Friday returned home after heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab Health Ministers Council which concluded in Cairo Thursday. Dr. Malhas said the council discussed among other issues the final draft of a document on the Arab strategy for developing health services and the health conditions in the Israel-occupied Arab territories. At the meeting he said, the head of the Palestinian Red Cross and Red Crescent Society landed Jordan support for health services in the territories. The minister said the council has announced a donation of \$180,000 for the establishment of two health centres in occupied Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Ministry to replace non-Jordanian workers in certain fields

AQABA (Petra) — Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi Friday said the ministry is planning to replace non-Jordanians working in the fields of medicine, engineering, administration and clerical fields, accounting and driving with Jordanian job seekers. In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ghazawi said this step is aimed at organising the local labour market, a measure which is essential in the battle against unemployment, the minister added. The ministry's decision was made after the completion of a study of the labour market which aimed at identifying characteristics of job-seekers. The minister said that the ministry is making great efforts to encourage Jordanians to work in the agriculture sector, where the presence of a non-Jordanian labour force is prominent. He added that because of the low participation of Jordanians in this sector, the ministry will continue to depend on non-Jordanian labour.

Youth centre gets foundation stone

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Youth Minister Abdullah Owaidat Friday laid the foundation stone of the youth centre building here which will be constructed at a cost of JD 200,000. Addressing representatives of the youth and sports movement in Mafraq, Dr. Owaidat said the ministry is currently working out a comprehensive plan, including fixed criteria governing the establishment of youth centres to serve local communities. He stressed that the ministry gives some priority to rural clubs and youth centres. The minister also visited the sports compound and several youth clubs in the governorate and opened Manshiet Bani Hussein Girls Centre. Dr. Owaidat was accompanied by Mafraq Governor Qutban Al Moumami.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

- ★ Danish film entitled "Der Forsømte Forar" (Stolen Spring) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ British film entitled "Howard's End" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Isam Nacirat at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Flower exhibition entitled "The Flower Bridge Between Jordan and Palestine" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Aman (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 679166)
- ★ Computer exhibition at the Amman International Auto Exhibition.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmed Nawar at Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuhais (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 726902).
- ★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Aln Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbaa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luwelbeh (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Book exhibition at the Safeway International.
- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).



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Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

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Evidence for goodwill

ARAB AND Israeli negotiators will this week be taking their seats around the negotiating tables in Washington, announcing to the world that the peace talks are back on track.

Not many Palestinians and Arabs will be cheering, though.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel have agreed to return to the negotiations after they reached an accord on the deployment of international observers in Hebron. No one believes that those observers will be able to give Palestinians in the city the protection they need. But then no one should have expected Israel to agree to more on the Palestinians to insist on more; hence the lukewarm support the agreement has received from Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories.

The only purpose the agreement has served is to give the PLO an excuse to go back to the talks with the illusion that the blood of dozens of Palestinians killed in the Feb. 25 massacre did not completely go in vain. Yet again, realpolitik and power centres in the U.S. and Israel proved that what they want done gets done. Nothing more, nothing less.

The Hebron massacre was a product of a situation which 160 European observers can do little to change. An ideologically driven settler who believes the Palestinians should be "transferred" will have no trouble emptying the bullets of his or her machinegun into unarmed Palestinians as Israeli soldiers turn their eyes the other way. Of those there are many in Hebron. Israel and the PLO know that. But Israel did not want them out, at some point in the future we will be counting the death toll of another massacre in the occupied territories.

Nothing less than a complete evacuation of the settlers from the occupied Arab territories will stand a chance of removing the fear in which Palestinians live. The Palestinians and the settlers cannot coexist. This Israel has finally said it recognised and this the Arabs have always contended. It is time therefore that the negotiators took up this matter seriously and started drafting a solution for it.

But expecting the peace process to address the roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict is to presume that Israel genuinely wants equitable and real peace in the region. For more than two and a half years Israel has been demonstrating the opposite. In its talks with Jordan, for instance, Israel wants to discuss tourism before borders; in its talks with Syria it wants to have the Israeli flag hoisted on an embassy building in Damascus before withdrawing from the Golan; and in its talks with Lebanon it wants to set up joint police patrols before quitting Lebanese territories.

U.S. President Bill Clinton can afford to be pleased about the resumption of the talks because it seems that for him they are a goal in themselves. But for the Palestinians and other Arabs who have to live with the consequences of Israel's intransigence, the headlines have little appeal.

It is not that we do not believe in the peace process; it is that we cannot trust that the Israelis have changed the mentality of the occupier. For Israel to be believed, it has to produce evidence of its good intentions and commitment to honourable peace.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE UNITED STATES did not only abandon the role of mediator in the Middle East peace process, but also went back on its pledge to play the role of full partner to help the Arabs and the Israelis reach peace, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. At the same time, the U.S. administration has kept the pressure on the Arab parties to conclude separate peace treaties with Israel at any cost, the paper noted. In the case of Jordan, the U.S. administration has kept the siege on Aqaba and in the past few months intensified the inspection procedures to take revenge on the Kingdom for its refusal of a proposal presented to His Majesty King Hussein during his last trip to the United States to conclude a separate treaty with the Jewish state, the paper pointed out. Furthermore, the U.S. administration has been encouraging the Israeli government to pursue its atrocities and has continued to provide it with protection at the U.N. Security Council, it added. Washington's success in forcing the Palestinians to sign the Sept. 13 deal in Washington, said the daily, has encouraged the Americans to try their hand with Jordan, hoping, through the continued pressure on its economy, that the Jordanian leaders would succumb to the U.S.-Israeli alliance and its humiliating terms for peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised the performance of the serving Cabinet ministers, describing them as unfit for their job and its serious responsibilities. The ministers are kind and gentle personalities who give nice words to the public, but are unable to take serious steps in the course of handling the affairs of administration, said Bassam Emoush. The writer said Jordan is in need of ministers who are able to put forth feasible plans to help the country rid itself of the debts, deal with unemployment and poverty and enhance the true sense of democracy. We want a strong government that would refuse the Zionist formula of a peace settlement, grant the public more freedom, announce and implement austerity programmes and handle public tasks more efficiently, demanded the writer. Apart from the prime minister, who is quite capable of handling government business tactfully, the rest of the Cabinet members are, in the views of the majority of the public, unable to rise to the level of responsibility they should bear, claimed the writer. He said that the ministers have proved their incompetence in all their dealings with the Lower House of Parliament, in almost all issues of public interest.

Jordanian Perspective

'A difference here or a difference there does make a difference'

By Dr. Musa Keilani

TWO WEEKS after the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution condemning the massacre of dozens of Palestinians at Hebron's Al Ibrahim Mosque, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to resume their autonomy negotiations following the endorsement of an accord providing for protection for Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank town.

It was a foregone conclusion, however, that the two sides would not fail to reach agreement since both, for reasons of their own, have no choice but to pursue negotiations, massacre or no massacre. The latest agreement, reached in Cairo on Thursday, re-emphasised this point.

On the credit side of the Palestinians in the accord there is only one point and a very important point at that: for the first time since Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, an international observer force will take up points in a West Bank town. Symbolic as it is, the move is historic in that it represents an international recognition of the status of the territories as occupied.

It is difficult to assess how the reaffirmation of this point would serve the ultimate cause of establishing an independent Palestinian state. But it fits in somewhere in the legal aura of the conflict and the applicability of international law.

But Israel has meanwhile managed to score another point, and that is more foreboding for the Palestinian cause. For all practical and technical purposes, the terms of reference for ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have been established by the Oslo agreement, not United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Those resolutions came into play in the so-called final status negotiations as stipulated in the Oslo accord, but the reality on the ground in the occupied territories is a major hurdle in foreseeing a fair and just solution based on these resolutions.

Thursday's Cairo agreement leaves one major gap. It fails to address the question of the presence of Jewish settlers in the heart of Hebron. Although numbering less than 500, these heavily armed and army-protected settlers are a major challenge to hopes that the accord has put, once and for all, the situation back to normal in Hebron.

The presence of settlers in Hebron is a perfect recipe for trouble. Unless they are removed, we could expect to see more Goldsteins coming out of them and more massacres perpetrated against the Palestinians.

Israel steadfastly maintained one point throughout the Cairo negotiations related to protecting Palestinians in Hebron: the removal of settlers is an "internal Israeli issue" and the PLO had no business in the affair. Augmenting the Israeli stand was the fact that Hebron is not part of the Palestinian autonomous

territories envisaged under the Oslo agreement.

The differences over the interpretations as well as the realities that prompt a totally new look at the Oslo accord, particularly the clauses which relate to the future of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, are going to be a permanent feature of all further Israeli-PLO negotiations and the implementation of the agreement itself. The Oslo accord might better be called an Israeli-Israeli agreement since it relegates Palestinian concerns and gives more attention to arrangements that are aimed at pacifying Israelis themselves who oppose any return of territory to the Palestinians.

If anything, the government of Yitzhak Rabin is now more worried about the safety and security of the PLO leadership than of the people who live in Hebron or elsewhere in the occupied territories to ensure that the Oslo accord gets off the ground since the Israeli leaders have got what they wanted in writing from the Palestinians and they are anxious to ensure that a final deal is signed on Palestinian autonomy before anything happens to the PLO leadership.

Quite simply, the net outcome of the peace process in the Israeli-Palestinian track so far does not look at all good for the Palestinians in the occupied territories to realise their dreams of a life in dignity and freedom to exercise self-determination.

That does not mean that we Jordanians are moving away from supporting the Oslo accord. For us here, the accord represents a decision taken by the leaders of the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and we are committed to respecting the decisions of that leadership. It is the Palestinians who have to bear the consequences of those decisions.

But the fact that we in Jordan also have to bear part of the repercussions of those decisions, as we have been doing over the last four or five decades, gives us a right to point out what is wrong and what is right. And that is why we have been complaining that the state of coordination between Jordan and the PLO leaves a lot to be desired; starting from the Oslo accord itself and the negotiations that followed it in Taba, Paris, Cairo, Oslo and a multitude of other places and the surprising way Resolution 904 was handled at the United Nations Security Council. We are being briefed after the fact and then we have to adjust positions and adopt measures accordingly. Definitely coordination is not the name that we would give to that kind of a relationship.

To say that Jordanian-Palestinian relations and coordination should be disturbed by a "difference here or a difference there" looks excellent on paper. But the reality is that "a difference here or a difference there" does make a big difference in the context of Jordan's options and negotiating strategies with Israel as well as the internal situation of the Kingdom.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Blockade on Aqaba: 'enough is enough'

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

Jordan's firm stand with regard to the siege on the port of Aqaba, the Middle East question and the peace talks with Israel as well as a host of domestic issues acquired ample coverage in the Jordanian press in the past week.

Describing the siege of Aqaba as an act of piracy on the part of Washington and its satellites, Tareq Masarweh said that the U.N. Security Council has never issued any resolution imposing the blockade on the Jordanian port.

To date, 1,700 ships have been intercepted and turned away for no justification at all on the part of the U.S. Navy stationed in the Gulf, said the columnist who writes for Al Ra'i daily.

How can Washington expect us to believe that it wants to establish peace in our region while it pursues an economic war through the blockade on our port? asked the writer.

It is not true, added the writer, that the United States' blockade on Aqaba is meant to prevent goods from reaching Iraq because no U.S. Navy patrols the shore and the ports of Syria, Turkey and Iran. He said that the blockade is clearly intended to intimidate Jordan and force it to accept the U.S.-Israeli formula for a settlement.

Sawt Al Shaab daily described King Hussein's decision to link the Kingdom's resumption of talks with Israel to the lifting of the embargo on the port city as a very brave and courageous stand.

Following repeated complaints to Washington about the siege on Aqaba, the U.S. administration promised it would examine the situation but it did nothing to lift the siege, said the daily.

The United States kept the siege, added the paper, despite its knowledge that the Kingdom was abiding by the sanctions on Iraq and was participating most positively in the peace process.

It was after prolonged patience that Jordan has finally decided that enough is enough, regarding the siege on its port, said Al Dustour daily. This blockade on Aqaba has lasted for years for no reason except to cause losses to the Jordanian economy, said the paper. Indeed, the blockade has caused the country dearly, adding to its losses resulting from the Gulf crisis, added the paper.

It is unreasonable and unacceptable by any standard and under any excuse to see the blockade on Aqaba continue and Aqaba bound ships inspected or turned away, said

Sultan Al Harrah, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

Jordan's final complaint, which was delivered by the King to the ambassadors of the five U.N. Security Council permanent members was the last diplomatic resort to ensure the lifting of the blockade, he said.

A total of 1,700 ships have been intercepted but none was proved to be carrying any goods destined for Iraq, said the writer. Jordan's firm stand was timely and its voice should be heard by the world community which must act to end the injustice, said the writer.

Mahmoud Rimawi, another Al Ra'i columnist, noted that Washington was exercising pressure on the Arab parties to the peace talks to succumb to Israel's wishes.

Washington keeps Syria on the list of countries encouraging terrorism, bans travel by American citizens to Lebanon and maintains a siege on the port of Aqaba; in addition, it does not recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, said the writer. This policy, he said, is clearly intended to influence the course of the peace process.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily discussed the Palestine issue, noting that the signing in Cairo by the PLO and Israel of an agreement for the deployment of international observers in Hebron was not sufficient to prevent violence.

While signing the deal, Israel has announced that it retains the responsibility of security in the city, which means the observers would not be able to do anything to save the civilian population from the settlers, said the paper.

As long as the Jewish settlers exist in the city and as long as the Israeli authorities can bring in troops and impose curfew on Hebron, there can be no peace for the Arab population, said the daily.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said the deployment of Palestinian police in Hebron can solve no problem at all as long as Israel retains the upper hand in the security question.

The writer suggested that the PLO demand that Hebron be added to Jericho and Gaza in enjoying full autonomy rule as a first step towards a final solution. He also demanded that real international protection be provided to the local population and the end of the Jewish

presence in the city of Hebron to prevent friction with the Arabs.

Criticising Washington's stand vis-a-vis the city of Jerusalem, as was explicit in the voting on the status of Jerusalem at the U.N. Security Council, Mahmood Rimawi said that the United States harbours ill intentions.

Arab and Islamic countries should follow in the footsteps of the Vatican, which announced that Israel's annexation of the Holy City would serve as an obstacle in the path of peace and should copy the example of the Arab American societies which were prompt to protest the American stand vis-a-vis the city, as was manifested in council Resolution 904, demanded the writer.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily criticised the Arab League which met last week in Cairo at the foreign ministers level because the agenda contained an item requiring them to discuss the lifting of the Arab boycott against Israel.

It is most shameful for the Arab League to put on its agenda such a matter and ignore the sanctions imposed on Iraq and Libya and the blockade imposed by the United States on the port of Aqaba, said Salameh Ekour.

Echoing the same tune, Tareq Masarweh said that it was the foreign minister of Syria alone condemning the Arab League's agenda and stressing the fact that the Arab Nation would never end the boycott as long as Israel continues to occupy Arab lands.

There is no need for the Arabs to have an Arab League that acts against Arab Nation's interests and it is better for the Arabs to announce the demise of a club which tends to harm their national interests, said the writer.

He said that the Arabs ought to discuss ending the blockade on Iraq before contemplating any friendly gesture towards Israel.

Samir Qitami, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, described as ridiculous a statement by President Clinton that the regime of Saddam Hussein constituted a serious threat to America's national security.

Out of hatred towards the Arabs and Muslims, Mr. Clinton has announced that he would maintain the embargo on Iraq to kill more women and children because the Iraqi regime has not recognised the sheikhdom of Kuwait yet, said the writer.

He asked how the regime in Baghdad could pose a threat to America at a time when it has no weapons and its people are dying of starvation.

Hosni Ayyesh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, decried the stand of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), which recently convened in Paris, for failing to come to the support of the Iraqi people who demand an end to the embargo and the Palestinians who demand protection against terrorism.

The writer said that world parliaments which are supposed to be steering their governments' policies have proved to be acting in these governments' pay and implementing their instructions.

A columnist in Al Dustour daily drew attention to the fact that crime is on the increase in Jordan, calling attention to the need for speedy action to stem its roots.

Mohammad Subeili said that we have to sound the alarm to make the social organisations in the country wake up to the fact that criminality is spreading wide, calling on them to act now before it is too late. The writer said that the murder of a child in Zarqa should serve as a warning that more crimes could happen.

Mohammad Daoud, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that as the government is contemplating developing the higher education system in the country, it ought to link it to the local market needs.

The writer said that community colleges and universities should turn their attention to training students in vocational rather than academic programmes, as the country is in bad need of construction and working people rather than academicians who remain unemployed and unable to contribute to the construction of the country.

Sultan Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that while the Israelis are talking steps to develop the western coast of the Dead Sea, no similar programmes are contemplated for the eastern coast.

The writer said that tens of thousands of people vacationing in Jordan crowd the shores of the Dead Sea on Fridays, but they find no proper facilities to serve them. The same can be said with regard to Jerash and other tourist attractions, said the writer.

He demanded that the concerned authorities take steps to set up hotels, chalets and other essential utilities to help boost the tourism industry in the Kingdom.

Two keys to peace in the Balkans

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON—The Clinton administration has a plausible plan to end the Yugoslav crisis. It rests on Mujina in the northern part of the Balkan region and Kosovo in the south. Success could terminate the war in the north and deter war in the south.

In the north, the dispute between Serbs and Croats for a suitable place under the post-Yugoslavia sun is central. But the Serb-Croat-Muslim struggle in Bosnia, terrible as it is, is politically secondary and is under active and so far cooperative diplomatic treatment by Washington and Moscow.

The primary Serb-Croat agenda lies in Serb-people, Serb-held Krajina, inside Croatia. Krajina Serbs demand sovereignty. But that would dismember Croatia. The answer is very broad autonomy for the Krajina Serbs.

their position is. Their Russian friends will have to bring them around.

Muslims are wary too. In Kosovo they are linked ethnically to Muslims in Macedonia, Albania proper and beyond. To many Kosovans, autonomy looks pale in the gathering glow of Albanian ethnic passion. But here, in Albanian as well as Serbian ambition, lies the danger of widening the war outside the old Yugoslavia. Greece is making its own provocative contribution. This fuse cannot be left hissing.

Does the Two-Key Autonomy Model 1994 Peace Plan seem too simple? Any effective plan must be simple enough to be agreed on and implemented by cautious politicians. It must be understood and supported by inattentive publics. Close readers will recognise the debt this plan owes to the communiqué

"It is unrealistic to expect the diplomats to do more than tidy up an awful mess. A moral reckoning will have to be left to individual warcrimes prosecutions. A modest political compromise now needs no apology."

In the southern Balkans, ethnic Albanians, who are Muslims, are at centre stage. Their connection with other parties is difficult. The most explosive location is Kosovo, where sovereign Serbia harshly represses a large Albanian majority. Kosovo's Albanians call themselves, "the Republic of Kosovo" and, though they are careful about use of the provocative word "sovereignty," that plainly describes their goal. But that would dismember Serbia. The answer is broad autonomy for Kosovo's Muslim Albanians.

There you have what might be called the Two-Key Autonomy Model 1994 Peace Plan. Krajina and Kosovo hold the keys to a regional settlement. The same fair, symmetrical and principled prescription applies to both.

One principle is preservation of the formal sovereignty of existing states and rejection of the forceful change of national borders. The other principle is protection for endangered ethnic groups in those states. Autonomy is a status that can slide between a looser confederation and a tighter federation. It is not magic, but it is better than anything else on the board.

There are, of course, objections to this. You can already hear protesting Serbs, their nerves strained by suspicions of an American-Russian squeeze on their maximal Greater Serbia aspirations. They crave self-determination for Serbs in Krajina. But they wish to deny self-determination to Muslims in Kosovo. They want it both ways.

Serbs may not yet be ready to acknowledge how untenable

that the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Spain signed May 22, and then lost their grip on.

Or perhaps this plan is not vengeful enough for you. It isn't vengeful at all. It does not punish Croats and Muslims for failing to take into account, as they set up the new states of Croatia and Bosnia, that Serbs would risk involuntarily becoming citizens, and a minority, in a foreign country. Nor does it punish Serbs for their notorious policy, which in some places continues, of killing, displacing and robbing other people.

But there is plainly no taste in Moscow or Washington for a punitive expedition. It is unrealistic to expect the diplomats to do more than tidy up an awful mess. A moral reckoning will have to be left to individual warcrimes prosecutions. A modest political compromise now needs no apology.

Finally, you will say, all this could have been done long before. But a year ago circumstances weren't right. The battle of Bosnia was still on, keeping the parties from focusing on Krajina. The possibilities of explosion in Kosovo were insufficiently appreciated. Russia had not yet come forward to join the United States in claiming a piece of the action. The two of them are forcing the pace upon clients who appear ready to have their arms twisted a bit.

The basic idea of this plan is to let democratic choice replace force to the extent possible without further war. It will not bring back the dead, but it could limit the future toll. The Washington Post

LETTERS

Walk among friends

To the Editor:

I am a Japanese volunteer working at the Jordan University as a system engineer. I planned to travel to Petra from Karak on foot during the Eid Al Fitr vacation. As it turned out, I started from Tafleh to Shobak, because the weather was not so good. By many Jordanians.

The purpose of my visit to Jordan is to offer assistance and cooperation to develop this country; it happened that, on the contrary, I received a lot of kindness and assistance. During my walking, I was shown hospitality by many blow their horn when passing me. It encouraged me very much. Sometimes drivers kindly offered to pick me up. At times I accepted it, but most of the time I rejected it. I have so I would like to thank very much all the people who so kindly showed their friendliness to me.

And I am especially thankful to a head of Rashidiya Police Station for his help. In spite of an unexpected visit, I was warmly received. I therefore say it deeply appreciate his kindness.

I feel that I could touch the Jordanian spirit on my trip. Had I used a bus or other public means of transportation, I probably wouldn't have had such an experience. I am so happy I decided to travel on foot.

I will stay in Jordan for two years. My wonderful experience will be an encouragement when performing my activities.



Hiroko Kuramochi, Computer Centre, University of Jordan, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are return of unused manuscripts.

Police

(Continued from page 1)

upon orders," said head of the Palestinian police force in Jordan General Mohammad Qudsieh.

Police with medical and engineering experience would be among the first batch to enter the occupied territories, Gen. Qudsieh said.

A gradual withdrawal by Israel beginning April 12 and ending April 30 is expected to run parallel to the entry of most of the 7,000 policemen.

"Logistically there may be some delay, but the policemen in Jordan, Yemen and Egypt are ready at any time," said the Amman-based PLO official.

"Our main aim is trying to give the people under occupation a sense of security," Mr. Kanafani said. "A timetable and numbers are irrelevant. What is important is that people will feel free to work, pray and walk around without the fear of being killed by settlers," he added.

"There are various dimensions to this," added Mr. Kanafani. "There are the deportees, the prisoners, security issues, withdrawal and the beginning of the take-over by the Palestinian authority."

Responding to reports that Mr. Arafat would enter the occupied territories in mid-May, the president's spokesman said: "That will be up to him and will depend on the situation."

Hebron force

(Continued from page 1)

security.

"When they are operating," he said, "in their surroundings will be Israeli forces who will be responsible for security and they are the ones who will keep order."

The Gaza-Jericho talks resume on Sunday in Cairo but Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said on Friday the PLO had requested a delay in reconvening the economic portion of the self-rule negotiations.

"This is my understanding, that the economic talks are not going to resume on Sunday — this is from the Palestinian side. We are ready for them to resume," Mr. Ben-Ami said.

He spoke to Reuters after Mr. Rabin met with Israeli peace negotiators and held talks with leaders of the parliamentary opposition at their request.

Mr. Rabin, in an interview published in the newspaper Davar on Friday, reiterated that Israel would not open discussions now with the PLO on a final peace settlement.

He said both sides had to stick to the terms of their peace deal which set an interim five-year period of self-rule and put off for several years discussions on permanent borders, Jewish settlements and Jerusalem.

He said talks at this stage on a permanent solution would freeze the peace process.

"If we begin to deal with the permanent settlement today the problems of Jerusalem, settlements and borders will be raised," Davar quoted Mr. Rabin as saying.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said meanwhile that Israel hoped for speedy negotiations on Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho now that agreement had been reached on foreign observers for Hebron.

Mr. Peres told Israel Radio he thought an agreement on Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho could be signed around the original target date for the pullout's completion, April 13.

But he said: "If again they (the PLO) begin to insist on all sorts of details then it will take time. I very much hope that also the Palestinian side this time will lend its hand to speedy and sensible negotiations."

Both Israel and the PLO want to implement swiftly the Gaza-Jericho accord signed in September. Security differences delayed the scheduled Dec. 13 starting date and both sides fear mounting Arab-Israeli violence could scupper the deal.

Mr. Peres dubbed "hysterical" Israeli right-wing criticism of the unprecedented deployment of foreign observers in Hebron.

He said their presence was not a precedent but part of the "very heavy price" Israel was paying for the Hebron massacre.

No date has been set for the deployment of the 160 observers, but under Thursday's agreement the way is open for them to go to Hebron as early as next week.

Israeli security sources said on Friday the army might call up more reserve forces to continue increased protection for the 450 Israelis living in Hebron.

Insects — a new fact of agriculture

By Jean Chabrier

Since time immemorial, insects have been the farmer's bane. All over the planet, depending on the region and the year, the devastating activities of insects have laid waste to whole fields of crops and brought about misery and famine. From 1942-43, the invention of DDT presented a chemical solution and hosts of insecticides, fungicides and pesticides were invented. These became apparently increasingly effective and were used without restraint. In the 80s, it had to be admitted that not only did their uncontrolled use result in ecological disasters, but that increasing number of species developed immunity to these products.

Numerous research projects in the world, and particularly in France by INRA (the National Agronomic Research Institute), offer a new procedure, based on a rational study of the biology of insects and other predators, which destroy crops. These new means have proved to be highly effective and "intellectually" satisfactory.

First of all, it is important to know the enemy (or enemies) really well: their way of life, their reproduction, their habits, etc... This is the work of entomologists, biologists and other specialists. The second stage consists in determining, step by step, the enemies of our enemies. At all levels, life is a deadly struggle in which the mightiest wins and the weakest is eaten by the strongest. Each family of living beings often has a predator which is peculiar to it (e.g. cats and rodents).

The idea is thus to reject the

thoughtless use of chemical products and, on the contrary, to encourage the development of the predator of the species one is seeking to destroy.

Already towards the end of the 19th century, the American Riley had tried to foster the use of ladybirds, the enemies of greenfly which destroy orchards. But ladybirds are a fairly frail species and can only operate usefully in very precise conditions.

Great progress has been achieved in the last few years as revealed in the following examples. The pyralis is a moth caterpillar which attacks maize leaves producing extensive damage. Its enemy and killer is a tiny fly, the trichogramma which lays its own eggs inside the pyralis. On hatching, the eggs completely devour the caterpillar. Its larvae then produce other flies which will lay their eggs inside other pyralis caterpillars. This chain effect works perfectly and the product is marketed under the name of TR 16 in the form of capsules containing trichogramma eggs. In 1991, ten thousand hectares were treated in this way with complete success.

It is important, however, that the insect which becomes our "ally" should be harmless and not cause damage in other areas through its proliferation. Otherwise the consequences of the mechanism could be disastrous. Total vigilance and perfect knowledge of the natural predator is thus required. The TR 16 is completely "biodegradable" as the flies die as soon as there are no more pyralis caterpillars for them to lay their eggs in.

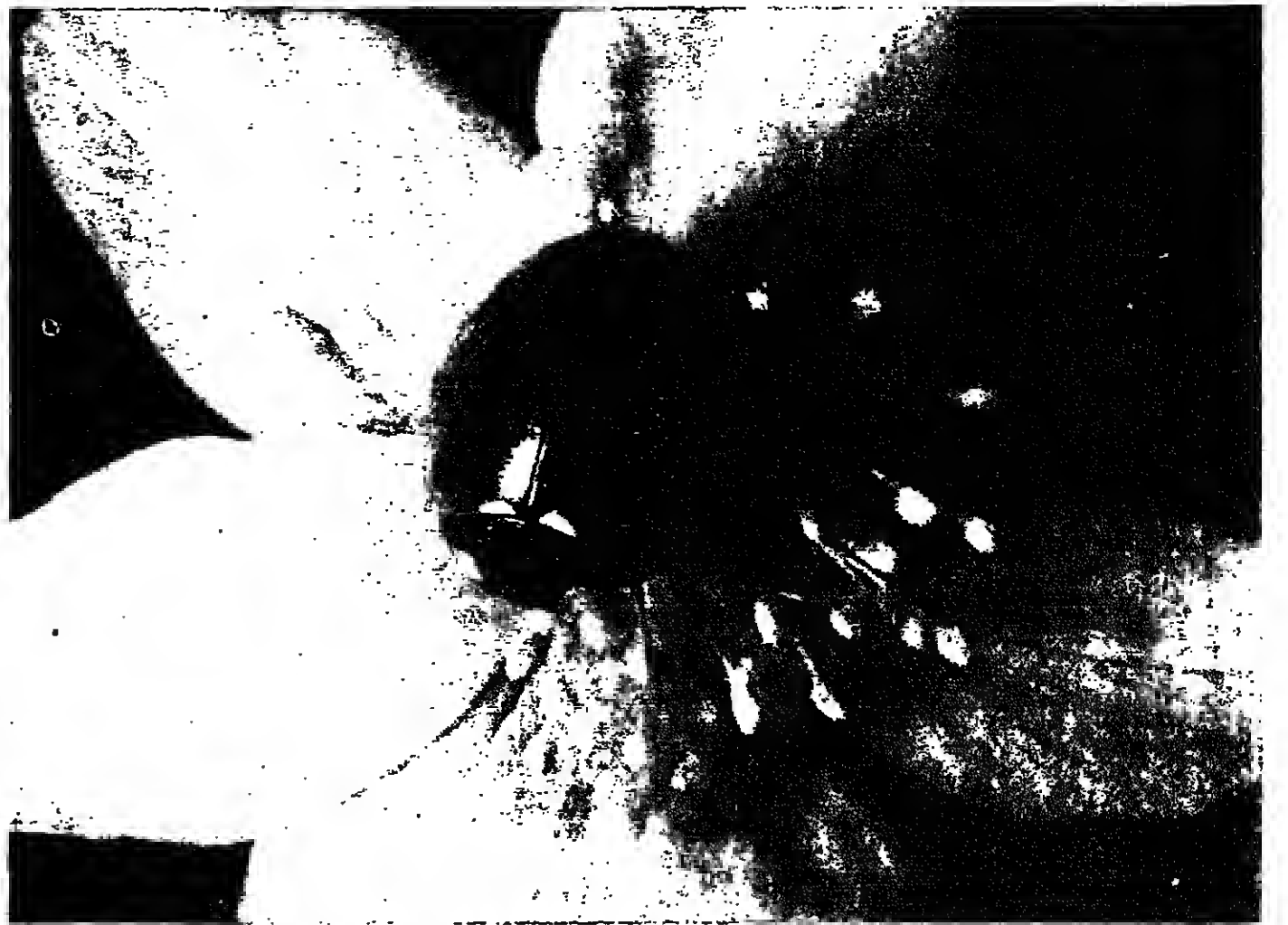
Research is also being car-

ried out on pheromones and these have been widely used in orchards in the Rhône Valley and in Bordeaux vineyards for 15 years. In this case, use is being made of a sexual weapon. Pheromones are chemical signals given off by female butterflies and this scent can be picked up kilometres away by the males. By adding a few drops of different chemicals, the signals can be "scrambled" so that the males are no longer able to find their female partners and there is thus no reproduction.

Bacteria can also be used in the fight against pests. This is particularly the case with the thuringiensis bacillus, which is the champion in all categories and has been written about in numerous scientific publications. This bacillus has the property of being able to produce huge masses of proteins which are deadly to larvae. Each species of this very big family of bacteria has its speciality. One of them destroys the processionary caterpillar, another kills pests destroying lucern crops, others rice plants, cotton plants, tobacco plants, etc...

In addition to being used as biopesticides, insects can also serve in tropical medicine. Most of these diseases are carried either by mosquitoes or by water-bred larvae. For the latter, the thuringiensis bacillus is used to kill the larvae in the fight against terrible onchocerciasis or river blindness which is so widespread in West Africa.

A team of French researchers, working in Cameroon under the auspices of the World Health Organisation, has undertaken a vast study



Ladybirds — very useful 'ecological' predators that devour the greenfly which destroy orchards (Photo by Philand-Jacana)

using the sphericus bacillus in the north of the country. This particular bacterium secretes a toxin which is harmless to man but deadly for "culex" larvae, a mosquito able to bite 300 times in a single night, which among others, carry malaria, a disease affecting nearly 300 million people and one against

insecticides. Not only do sphericus bacillae destroy the larvae, they also outlive the females.

Research is also being carried out on the anopheles mosquito which carries malaria, a disease affecting nearly 300 million people and one against

which, over the years, insecticides and even medicines are becoming ineffective.

Another aspect of these methods is the destruction, by air, of the illegal coca plantations in Central America.

But the use of living organisms to fight crop pests and

human diseases is not infallible. Sometimes an appropriate predator cannot be found or it only turns out to be relatively successful. In that case, chemical pesticides still have to be used, but rationally and under strict supervision — L'actualité en France.

Lighter, smaller, cheaper — lofty achievement for satellite phones

By John Burgess

WASHINGTON — From his room at the Cairo Marriott, Gary Flaherty wanted to call London. So he flipped open a special briefcase near the window and pointed its top at a satellite suspended invisibly in the southern sky. In a minute or two, he had created his own private earth station in his room and was dialing a telephone stored in the briefcase.

Satellite telephones have suddenly become a lot smaller, lighter and cheaper. The 40kg suitcase-sized device that the CNN correspondent Peter Arnett made famous in Baghdad during the Gulf war is reemerging at nine kg and briefcase size. What used to cost \$50,000 and require a wall socket or generator can now be had for \$20,000 and runs off batteries.

Employing the efficient digital technology of computers, the phones have shrunk to the point that makers hope

they become common baggage for executives visiting countries where phone service remains rudimentary.

About 500 of these new devices, which went on sale last year, are in use around the world. "You can call from any location where you get a view of the sky," said Mr. Flaherty, president of GlobeSat Corp., one of several competitors in the satellite phone market.

Well, almost any location. The phones will not work near the north or south poles because no satellite is overhead. For now, most customers are the traditional ones: journalists, soldiers and relief workers. Users interviewed for this article seemed generally satisfied with the new units, though they often noted the high cost.

A CBS News crew took a briefcase unit into Beirut recently to stay in touch with colleagues in other parts of the world. When President Bill Clinton visited Prague in January, network crews phoned

New York from a bridge, a plaza and other spots around the city to coordinate coverage. "They're a really useful gadget," said Don DeCesare, vice president of operations.

U.N. peacekeeping troops being treated by a U.S. Army medic in Macedonia may find that doctors far afield can be consulted. "That medic has the ability to phone home," said Major James B. Crowther, who handles information systems. "And he's not limited by distance, whether his best medical consultative support is 10 miles or 1,000 miles away."

The industry hopes the unit's drop in size and cost will sharply expand the market. The new target customer, said Alan Brunstrom, marketing manager at the communications consortium Inmarsat in London, is "the international traveler," or more specifically, "the businessman rather than the hard-hat specialist."

Inmarsat, which operates the satellites, estimates that

100,000 units will be in use by 2000. A number of companies share that optimism.

Mobile Telesystems Inc., which built Mr. Arnett's unit and dominated the market for that generation of phone, is about to bring out a digital briefcase unit. Other makers, including Globesat, are already on the market with one. NEC Corp. of Japan was the first company to bring out a digital phone.

Each unit is its own miniature earth station. In some, the antenna is built into the briefcase's top. By raising and lowering the top and rotating the briefcase, the caller can aim the antenna at the satellite. Others have tops that can

be detached and put on a roof, with the main unit staying in a room below.

Using a map, the traveler determines the general vicinity of the sky where the satellite is stationed. Lights on the telephone unit come on to show when the antenna aim is "getting warmer." Once locked on, the unit can place or receive a call. Calls cost about \$5 per minute, roughly half of what calls on old satellite phones cost.

In addition to telephones, some units are designed to accommodate laptop computers or small fax machines. The phones have drawbacks. Cost is the main one. And callers may discover that a building or

hill blocks transmission to the satellite.

The circuits have a half-second delay as the caller's voice travels into space and back, an annoyance that largely has vanished from conventional overseas calling because of undersea fiber-optic lines and other advanced equipment. Sound quality can be distorted as well.

Travellers may find resistance at airports. Customs officials in developing countries often look with suspicion on travellers arriving with communications gear. Long, advance negotiations are often necessary to bring a unit in, said Ron Mario, president of Comsat Mobile Communica-

tions, which provides satellite links.

But "as terminals get smaller and smaller," he said, "it's going to be more and more difficult for countries to prevent access."

The small size is due largely to the incorporation of the digital technology of computers into the phones. Such technology makes more efficient use of satellites' frequencies, allowing one satellite to handle more circuits and lowering the cost of individual calls. Digital also allows for a lower-powered signal to be used, so that the unit can be lighter and cheaper.

— Washington Post.

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U.S. releases trade hit-list, blasts Japan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States released an annual hit-list of world trade barriers Friday and singled out Japan for special criticism.

The trade office was quick to point out that the annual report had taken on "added significance" this year since President Clinton has revived a dormant sanctions tool.

Following the March 3 reviving of the Super 301 measure — which has been widely condemned overseas — any of the list of accusations levelled against Japan in the new report could now be the basis for punitive tariffs some months down the road.

"The longest section of the report relates to Japan," the trade office said in a terse statement.

The section contains examples of progress but also documents the fact that the barriers to imports of manufactured goods and services far exceed the barriers of other nations (Group of Seven) and place an unacceptable burden on the global trading system," it said.

Indeed, it dedicated 43 pages to Japan — up from 27 pages last year — and noted that the U.S. deficit with Japan last year totalled \$60.4 billion, up \$10 billion from 1992.

The report said the imbalance and a host of alleged trade barriers have "created enormous strains on Japan's trade relations with the United States and other countries."

The national trade estimate — a detailed indictment of 39 different countries or regions — is an annual report card to Congress on problems around the globe. Japan is problem no. 1 and, for the first time since Mr. Clinton took office, this year's study sets a clock ticking on possible Super 301 action.

Trade office general counsel Sha Shapiro said the administration was not yet singling out any one nation for 301 action, nor was it naming names — yet — on a related review of public procurement practice and intellectual property protection, both due to be wrapped in April.

"We're not in any anticipating or trying to guess who will be designated," Mr. Shapiro told reporters.

Under 301, Mr. Clinton can name "priority" practices by Sept. 30 and then begin sanctions proceedings. Super 301 lapsed under the Bush administration and was revived four weeks ago for use against barriers "the elimination of which have the greatest potential for the expansion of U.S. exports."

While the trade office clearly singled out Japan, Mr. Shapiro cautioned against focusing on the downside after a year of trade liberalisation deals and market-opening efforts.

"This is so because of our success in the past year in reducing trade barriers," he said.

The progress in terms of market-opening significantly outweighs the reverses."

That said, from Europe to China, the U.S. trade team was quick to find fault, be it alleged music piracy by Beijing or discriminatory broadcast bans by Brussels.

But all eyes — and a fair number of the questions deflected by Mr. Shapiro — focused on Tokyo, now that the two sides have careened onto a collision course over commerce.

Mr. Shapiro delivered the report without his boss, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, but nonetheless rattled off the high concerns, from telecommunications to public procurement to autos.

All of these remained unresolved at a bilateral summit here last month that sent shudders through financial markets and raised fears of a possible trans-Pacific trade war.

As for hints about what confrontations might come next: The report said Washington is closely monitoring Tokyo's compliance with a 1992 computer deal, citing "serious concerns with respect to the full implementation of the measures."

The study also reeled off a list of problems under a 1991 supercomputer deal, in which a decision is due within weeks.

Tokyo's financial and legal service sector came under intense fire, as did coal, flat glass, wood, paper, wine...

The list went on and on.

The report also cited Japan's structural barriers, calling them "onerous restrictions" to free trade.

"Many of the market-access problems in Japan today stem from a complex interaction of Japanese government policies and private business practices... structural barriers often have been encouraged, supported or tolerated by the government," the report pointed out.

In the lucrative auto sector, the report listed a roll call of complaints covering cars, auto parts and motorcycles.

"The Japanese automotive vehicle market has been largely closed to imports. Foreign-made, foreign-made vehicles account for only about three per cent of the Japanese market," it said.

Following are the names of the countries and trading groups a new U.S. government report judges to have erected the most harmful trade barriers.

Arab League.
Argentina.
Australia.
Brazil.
Canada.
Chile.
China.
Colombia.
Dominican Republic.
Egypt.
El Salvador.
European Union.
Finland.
Guatemala.
Gulf Cooperation Council.
Honduras.
Hungary.
India.
Indonesia.
Israel.
Japan.
Malaysia.
Mexico.
New Zealand.
Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union.
Norway.
Pakistan.
Peru.
Philippines.
Poland.
Russia.
Singapore.
South Africa.
South Korea.
Switzerland.
Taiwan.
Thailand.
Turkey.
Venezuela.

Japanese policymakers kept their cool Friday over the latest annual U.S. trade list that hit at Japanese "trade barriers."

"On the whole the report contained tough criticism of Japan, but that will not lead directly to unilateral sanctions," chief cabinet secretary Masayoshi Takemura told a news conference.

Against this criticism Tokyo is enacting a two-pronged plan, quietly rebutting the accusations while helping U.S. firms in Japanese markets, a senior foreign ministry official said.

"We are reacting calmly because we do not want to upset the currency market," said the official, who declined to be named. "One way to correct Japan's trade imbalance is to boost its economy and create demand, but a rise in the yen would reduce the effect of such a macro-economic policy."

Japan is seeking resumption of the stalled economic "framework" trade talks with the United States, but Washington has so far responded coolly to such a call. Both sides say the ball is in the other's court.

U.S. dollar continues to be on the defensive, particularly against the European currencies and the Japanese yen

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar has weakened against both the yen and the Deutschmark in recent weeks, though apparently for different reasons. The yen has rallied to the 103 level against the dollar as an impasse between U.S. and Japanese trade negotiators points towards the need for further yen strength to curb Japan's trade surplus. The Deutschmark has strengthened in response to expectations that German rates will fall only marginally this year.

We continue to expect the dollar to rise against European currencies over time in response to a decline in German rates that should exceed market expectations. We maintain our 12-month targets of JPY/USD 95 and DM/USD 1.80.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar continues to be on the defensive, particularly against the European currencies and the Japanese yen. For the week ended March 25, the U.S. dollar index fell 1.1 per cent and, in so doing, recorded a new 1994 low. At this juncture, put/call ratios for the greenback are near overbought and medium-term momentum oscillators remain weak. Indeed, this latter indicator has the potential to remain down for another month, suggesting that the dollar index will continue to be under pressure — possibly short-term rallies notwithstanding. Thus, with the penetration of 93.62, further weakness to the 92.80 area would not be surprising. Resistance at 94.90-95.80 is the primary focus for the time being.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The yen has strengthened to the JPY/USD 103 level in response to an ongoing impasse in U.S.-Japan trade relations. Market participants have viewed recent signs that Japan is taking steps to open markets as an indication that U.S. policymakers would not seek further yen strength. But on March 29 the U.S. rejected Japanese trade concessions as inadequate. Although U.S. officials have avoided talking the yen up, many market participants have concluded that the administration favours yen appreciation as a way of cutting Japan's trade surplus.

Interest rate developments continue to lend support to the yen, 10-year government bond yields have risen to 4.1 per cent and futures markets are now discounting a tightening of Japanese monetary policy over the next year. Industrial production data for February was disappointing, with production up only 0.2 per cent against market expectations of a much sharper rise. But MITI expects a sharp rise in output in March, which suggests that further monetary easing is likely to be delayed for some time.

We expect renewed economic weakness to lead to a 0.5 per cent rate cut in late April or May. Persistent current account surpluses should keep upward pressure on the yen. Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect a current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by the time next year.

Technical view: Medium-term momentum for the Japanese yen remains constructive. Now that short-term oscillators have bottomed, it would seem against the dollar that the underlying uptrend is reasserting itself. With this in mind, a test of at least the February high at 102.50 appears to be indicated. Beyond that, a rally through the yen high of last August at 101.13 would suggest further strength to 97-98. Benchmark support remains 113-114, but for the time being, the area around 106.40 will be the more important reference point.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: The Deutschmark strengthened to DM/USD 1.67-1.68 in recent trading. The dollar was pulled down by political events — the Whitewater affair and the assassination of the leading presidential candidate in Mexico.

Turkish lira drops 4.4% after interest cut

ISTANBUL (R) — The lira dropped 4.4 per cent to 27,000 against the dollar Friday after the central bank cut its overnight borrowing rate by 50 points to 200 per cent.

"The downward trend in interest rates reduced pressure on the dollar, and buying reemerged," said one trader. "The fact that it is the first of the month could also boost demand."

The secondary overnight money market spanned a wide range of up to 500 per cent, traders said.

"The market is once again unbalanced," said another dealer. "There is a very wide margin between buyers and sellers."

The dollar opened at 25,800 lira after trading in a wide range between 23,900 and 25,000 on Thursday.

It had been held in tight for the last two weeks by astronomical overnight money rates, which peaked at an all-time high of 1,000 per cent on the secondary market last Friday.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 2, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You need to be careful that you are not too fixed and determined in your viewpoints today or you could encounter more trouble than you bargained for. Correct any possible error as you sidestep a trouble maker.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Try to be less critical of others. Use tact in dealing with others you come in contact with.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can accomplish a great deal today if you apply yourself in the right manner. Take no chances with your reputation now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You may think you are bogged down the family woes, but thank your lucky stars instead. Be wise in dealing with others at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make sure you keep promises to others and gain their respect. Redouble your efforts in going after a cherished aim.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle those duties that are important to your future. An adviser suggests something that is nerve-racking but brings good results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) An ideal day to be in the company of persons you like. Be aware of one who is jealous of you. Show others you have wisdom.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Use common sense in handling a business problem and get good results. Accepting an invitation in the evening is wise for you at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good time to improve relations with family members. Make sure you are not too extravagant with money today or you may not have any when needed.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Employ tact and diplomacy in dealing with others today and establish good rapport. Take needed health treatments which are advised.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Show a more wide-awake attitude towards others and gain their respect. Show increase devotion to the one you love in your life.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen more closely to what family members have to say so that you know better what is expected of you in the days ahead.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study your personal faults and take steps to improve them. Keep an eye peeled for opportunities coming your way in the near future.

The mark has now appreciated by 5 per cent since its early February low against the dollar.

Looking forward, we expect the mark to respond to news of monetary developments in the U.S. and Germany. Favourable news on M3 is unlikely in the near term, dimming prospects for a discount rate cut and a sharp weakening in the DM. The next 50 basis point discount rate cut could occur at the May 26 Bundesbank Council meeting.

We expect the mark to depreciate to DM/USD 1.80 in 12 months because we believe the decline in short-term German interest rates will exceed market expectations. But DM weakness may be limited if Bundesbank casing leads to a rebound in German bond and equity markets, as we expect, attracting portfolio capital from abroad.

Technical view: Both short and medium momentum indicators for the Deutschmark have an upward bias, but negative divergences are apparent in the short term oscillator. At the same time, sentiment is now near overbought. All of this suggests that, while higher highs are still likely, the post-February rally may be entering its final stages. Nonetheless, a rally through 1.65-1.66 DM/USD could well be enough to signal a challenge of last October's 1.59 high.

Support is at 1.70 and 1.72-1.73. Short term momentum for the mark/yen cross is peaking, but medium term oscillators appear to be bottoming. This would suggest that any weakening in coming weeks could well complete a longer term bottoming process and set the stage for an important rally. In that regard, the area near 63.00 is still viewed as both chart and momentum resistance. Support at 60.90-61.30 is important in the sense that a break below that range would allow for a test of the February low at 59.40.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound continued its decline against the Deutschmark this week, falling to DM/GBP 2.48. The pound is now 14 pennings below its early-January peak versus the DM. The pound's recent weakness has been due to domestic political concerns, namely a Tory challenge to John Major's leadership. Economic data indicate weakness in retail sales and consumer sentiment. But surprising strength in the labour market should help to maintain consumer confidence.

We expect the pound to rise to DM/GBP 2.70 in 12 months as short-term DM interest rates fall by 150 basis points compared to little change in sterling rates. The pound also depreciated against the dollar to U.S.\$/GBP 1.48. We expect the pound to depreciate to U.S.\$/GBP 1.46 in 12 months as short-term dollar interest rise modestly.

Technical view: Sentiment for the British pound remains neutral. The currency remains in a multi-month trading range, while both short and medium term momentum continue to offer little definition (although there is a slight upward bias). The lower end of the trading range at 1.46 U.S.\$/ is support; a break below that would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near 1.43 and possibly long term support at 1.40-1.42.

The \$1.50-\$1.51 range is viewed as first resistance. A rally through second resistance at 1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of the long term benchmark at 1.60. The DM cross-rate dropped to a new 1994 low below 2.50 last week. Both short and medium term momentum oscillators are now weak. A break below 2.485 would send the "stage" for a challenge of 2.43-2.44. Resistance has been lowered to 2.53-2.56.

لجنة تنسيق الشراء الموحدة
The Coordinating Committee of the Consolidated Purchasing

شركة مصانع الاسمنت الأردنية
Jordan Cement Factories Co. Ltd.

شركة مناجم البوتاش الأردنية
Jordan Potash Mines Co. Ltd.

شركة مصانع الاسمنت الأردنية
Jordan Cement Factories Co. Ltd.

INVITATION TO TENDERS

The Higher Committee of the Consolidated Purchasing in:

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd.
The Arab Potash Co. Ltd.
The Jordan Cement Factories Co. Ltd.

Announces the invitation to the following tenders:

1. Tender No. F.P.C. 1/94 for the supply of conveyor rubber belts.
2. Tender No. F.P.C. 2/94 for the supply of general tires & tubes.
3. Tender No. F.P.C. 3/94 for supply of stainless steel and structural carbon steel materials.

Tender documents and conditions can be obtained from the Arab Potash Company Limited offices in Amman/Procurement Department/Purchasing Section, against JD 150,000 non-refundable fees, for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submission tenders is 12:00 hours local time Saturday May 28, 1994.

The Higher Committee of
The Consolidated Purchasing

Peanuts

OUR BROTHER SEEMS TO BE SLEEPING ALL RIGHT...
I'VE BEEN THINKING... DO DOGS GO TO HEAVEN WHEN THEY DIE?
WHEN THEY WHAT?
WHEN THEY DIE...
I DIDN'T KNOW WE DIE!?

Mutt'n'Jeff

THIS IS A SELF-SERVICE RESTAURANT, JEFF! YOU PUT TWO NICKELS IN THE SLOT FOR A SANDWICH!

JEFF! AMN'T YOU GO ENOUGH? WHY DON'T YOU STOP?

I'M ON A WINNING STREAK!

THE Daily Crossword

by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

- 1 Quail
- 2 Sour
- 3 On deposit vein
- 4 Muse of poetry
- 5 Macho
- 6 Sheriff
- 7 Ultimatum
- 8 Ripen
- 9 Main point
- 10 Waning cycle
- 11 TV's Sus —
- 12 Langdon
- 13 Fitzgerald and
- 14 Raines
- 15 Scheduled TV show
- 16 Pertaining to birds
- 17 Philippine tribesman
- 18 Ivy league student
- 19 Run away
- 20 Fictive
- 21 Use a ballot
- 22 Allegheny
- 23 More unity
- 24 City of the Knapp works
- 25 Sean's country
- 26 Hamlet
- 27 Platform
- 28 Art deco name
- 29 Cravats
- 30 Planet Mars; dwarf
- 31 Assumes
- 32 Wings
- 33 Frolic
- 34 — and cons
- 35 Escape by cleverness
- 36 Dye
- 37 Printing term
- 38 Down or sets
- 39 Scotch river
- 40 Affectionate
- 41 Porant
- 42 Platform
- 43 Art deco name
- 44 Cravats
- 45 Planet Mars; dwarf
- 46 Assumes
- 47 Wings
- 48 Frolic
- 49 — and cons
- 50 Escape by cleverness
- 51 Dye
- 52 Printing term
- 53 Down or sets
- 54 Scotch river
- 55 Affectionate
- 56 Porant
- 57 Platform
- 58 Art deco name
- 59 Cravats
- 60 Planet Mars; dwarf
- 61 Assumes
- 62 Wings
- 63 Frolic
- 64 — and cons
- 65 Escape by cleverness
- 66 Dye
- 67 Printing term
- 68 Down or sets

DOWN

- 1 Breeze
- 2 CBI
- 3 Gather the leaves
- 4 Chord
- 5 Touching
- 6 Biblical prophet
- 7 Magna
- 8 — be seeing you...
- 9 Scottish river
- 10 Affectionate
- 11 Porant
- 12 Platform
- 13 Art deco name
- 14 Cravats
- 15 Planet Mars; dwarf
- 16 Assumes
- 17 Wings
- 18 Frolic
- 19 — and cons
- 20 Escape by cleverness
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- 61 Assumes
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- 63 Frolic
- 64 — and cons
- 65 Escape by cleverness
- 66 Dye
- 67 Printing term
- 68 Down or sets

Puzzle solved:

YACHT FUROR KISMET FESTAL

How the geologist liked his drinks — ON THE ROCKS

Aqaba siege scrambles AFM trading

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) dropped by nearly half and the general share price index dropped by nearly three per cent during the week ending Thursday, figures released by the market showed.

Dealers said the drop resulted from a combination of factors, including a natural decline after major companies announced or distributed dividends and the political implications of Jordan's announcement that its return to peace talks with Israel was contingent on a satisfactory solution to the de facto blockade of Aqaba.

The weekly AFM report said that 2.8 million shares worth JD 9.8 million changed hands during last week, compared with 4.8 million shares with JD 18.2 million in the previous week.

The general index of share prices based on 60 major companies listed in the market dropped by 2.8 points to 162.9 points. The decline was more visible in the separate index for commercial bank stock which dropped by 7.7 points (4.3 per cent), the services sector index which lost 3.4 points (2.2 per cent), the industrial stock index which lost 1.3 points (0.8 per cent) and the insurance stock index which posted a drop of 0.7 points (0.4 points).

The AFM report showed that commercial bank stock led the week's trading with shares worth JD 4.4 million changing hands, representing 44.9 per cent of the turnover, followed by the industrial sector with JD 4.3 million (43.9 per cent), the services sector with JD 1 million (10.2 per cent) and the insurance sector with JD 100,000 (one per cent). Stocks of 79 companies were

involved in the week's trading. The report said 13 of them showed gains in closing, while 57 registered drops in prices and nine remained unchanged.

Dealers said the slump in the market was expected to continue if no speedy solution was found to the siege of Aqaba. His Majesty King Hussein said Monday that Jordan's resumption of peace talks with Israel was contingent on addressing the blockade of the Kingdom's only port by the international enforcers of the 44-month-old sanctions against Iraq.

"The head-on collision with the U.S. over this issue despite years of complaints was taken by many investors as casting a cloud on the peace process, one of the key factors behind the surge in the stock market since early 1992," said a broker, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with standing AFM regulations.

"While not many believe that the peace talks would be suspended — since they expect the U.S. to work out a satisfactory solution to the problem, the immediate standoff reflected on the market, where most people react to every political event in the region," said the broker.

"But, if the situation remains in limbo then I expect a further slump in prices and trading," added the broker. "On the other hand, if a solution is reached quickly, then there will be a surge in the market and the stocks of many companies will go up."

Another factor behind the slump was the announcement or distribution of dividends by various companies. It is usual that after the dividends are announced, the concerned shares drop by an amount equal to that of the dividend rate, brokers noted.

Gulf Air to raise authorised capital

AL AIN, United Arab Emirates (R) — The regional Gulf carrier Gulf Air has said it was raising its authorised capital to 120 million Bahraini dinars (\$315 million) and planned to take a decision on privatising the company next June.

The firm's president Salim Bin Ali Assiyabi told reporters after a directors' meeting in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) city of Al Ain the decision to raise the capital was not unanimous.

He did not say who opposed it, but the capital increase would be divided among the owners.

Gulf Air is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Oman, the UAE's emirate of Abu Dhabi and Qatar.

Mr. Assiyabi said in October the airline had paid-in its 110 million Bahraini dinars (\$263 million) capital.

He said that the board also discussed the issue of privatising the airline, but postponed a decision until the board's next meeting in Bahrain in June. "We looked into the privatisation of the airline and allowing shares to be sold gradually, but the final decision will be made in the coming meeting in Bahrain in June," he said.

The management of Gulf Air, whose hillys give owners the right to offer up to 49 per cent of its shares to their citizens, has long sought to have at least a minority share

in the airline to be sold to the public.

The sale of shares was first proposed in 1991. The board considered it again in 1989 but shelved the idea until the airline achieved steady profit.

The airline has shown profits for each of the past three years. It said last month that profit for 1993 was \$40 million, a decline from 1992's \$49.2 million.

It has also set up a \$10 million investment portfolio.

Mr. Assiyabi said the board approved the 1993 balance sheet and decided to distribute 1.5 million Bahraini dinars (\$4 million) profit to each owning country.

Despite increasing competition even from countries that own Gulf Air, the airline last year added nine stations and ultimately aims to serve 80 destinations across the globe. It now serves 51 destinations.

He said the executive committee of Gulf Air raised at the board meeting the issue of increasing the airline's fleet and getting rid of leased aircraft.

"We asked the executive committee to make a serious study about the issue and make a final recommendation at an extraordinary meeting and get final approval from each government through the chairman of the board," he said.

He said the board made changes in the top management of the airline.

Kuwait deficit seen overshooting target

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will run a budget deficit of about 1.75 billion dinars (\$5.9 billion) in the 1993/94 fiscal year, a 43 per cent increase over the 1.223 billion dinars (\$4.0 billion) originally planned, an economics consultancy said Saturday.

If defence spending on major weapons — traditionally an off-budget item — was included, the deficit for the year ending June 30 would be even bigger, Al Shalla Consultancy said in a weekly market com-

mentary. The year-long slide in oil prices to lows not seen for five years is mainly to blame, Al Shalla said. Budget plans assumed an average price for Kuwaiti crude of \$15 a barrel but the actual price achieved has usually been \$11 to \$12.

Al Shalla said the gross 1993/94 budget deficit including transfers to foreign reserves would turn out at around 2.0 billion dinars (\$6.73 billion), 31 per cent of 1992 gross domestic product of 6.3 billion

dinars (\$21 billion).

The economic committee of the government's Supreme Planning Council has said that without reforming the state-owned economy the budget deficit will grow by almost 50 per cent by the year 2000 and the deficit could be seriously affected.

Kuwaitis are used to a generous welfare state that provides public services free or at minimal cost and government jobs for virtually all nationals who want one.

But heavy war-related payments halved foreign reserves and low oil prices and continuing security worries about Iraq slowed further the long-stagnant economy.

A bill passed by parliament on March 22 approves in principle a 3.5 billion dinars (\$11.7 billion) programme of spending on weapons and military training between 1992 and 2004. The move signalled the end of an eight-month informal freeze on arms procurement.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME

TRADING VOLUME PRICE OPENING PRICE CLOSING PRICE

AMMAN BANK 188,403 200.000 199.000 199.000

JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK 131,247 6.000 5.900 5.900

JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK 66,883 10.000 9.900 9.900

JORDAN SECURITIES 109,430 6.000 5.900 5.900

JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK 637,334 3.000 2.900 2.900

JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK 321,927 1.000 0.900 0.900

JORDAN TRADING BANK 271,281 1.000 0.900 0.900

JORDAN GENERAL BANK 284,923 2.000 1.900 1.900

JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK 176,840 1.000 0.900 0.900

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Seoul hails U.N. Security Council statement on N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korea hailed Friday as appropriate a U.N. Security Council statement urging Communist North Korea to allow unhindered nuclear inspections and called for an immediate response from Pyongyang.

All 15 members of the Council, including the United States and China, issued a statement under the name of President Jean-Bernard Merimee late Thursday urging North Korea to allow unhindered international inspections of nuclear plants.

The (South Korean) government evaluates the United Nations Security Council president's statement calling on North Korea to allow further nuclear inspection... as appropriate action, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The (U.N.) statement reflects the international community's deep concern about the seriousness of the North Korean nuclear issue and determination to solve the problem," the Seoul statement said.

It urged the reclusive Stalinist North to respond "immediately" to the Security Council.

"The government will continue to make all possible efforts for an early resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue through peaceful means, in cooperation with all countries seeking non-proliferation of nuclear arms," it said.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo, visiting the United States to discuss ways to settle the nuclear dispute, said: "North Korea will have to respond because the Security Council will be watching and there will be further consideration if there is no progress."

North Korea is widely suspected of diverting nuclear materials for a clandestine weapons programme. It denies the charge but prevented a full inspection in March by a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Tensions have grown rapidly the past few weeks as the increasingly defiant North repeatedly warned that international efforts to force U.N. inspections of its nuclear sites could lead to war.

North Korea's U.N. envoy, Pak Gil Yon, who opposed any Council involvement and called instead for dialogue, told reporters: "We have nothing more to show to the IAEA inspectors at this stage."

"The issuance of the statement will not help at all the solution of the nuclear issues," he said. "Who introduced nuclear weapons into the territory of Korea?" he said, referring to the United States.

North Korea also said Friday it appreciated a Russian gesture in proposing a world conference to resolve its nuclear inspection dispute but said the matter could only be settled in

direct talks with the United States.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) that if Russia truly wanted to help, it should try to persuade Washington to implement steps agreed at bilateral talks in February with the aim of resolving the crisis peacefully, through dialogue.

The U.N. statement, read at a brief public session by Mr. Merimee, marked a compromise by the United States and its allies, which had wanted a formal resolution but were also anxious to win China's support.

China, one of five veto-holding permanent Security Council members, had tried to delay the vote by submitting its own draft of a presidential statement.

China fought alongside the North in the 1950-53 Korean War and, as Pyongyang's last major ally, is seen as having a certain amount of influence over the North.

Shortly before the Security Council issued the statement, South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party (DP) leader Lee Ki-Taek accused U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry of issuing a statement pushing the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

Mr. Perry said in remarks published Thursday the United States planned to stop North Korea from developing a major nuclear arsenal even at the

risk of war.

He told the Washington Post the United States was "looking at two very grim alternatives" in North Korea.

One was that Pyongyang could amass a substantial number of nuclear warheads within several years for ballistic missiles capable of hitting neighbouring countries.

The other was "facing up to them in a way that could cause a catastrophic war," Mr. Perry was quoted as saying.

"Defence Secretary Perry's remarks... should not have been made as it will bring an atmosphere of war to the Korean peninsula," Mr. Lee told local reporters.

Meanwhile, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans arrived in Beijing Friday for talks with China's leaders about what they might do to end North Korea's nuclear impasse with the United Nations.

Mr. Evans said he would ask Premier Li Peng and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to try to persuade Pyongyang to open its nuclear facilities to full, unhindered inspections by the IAEA.

"I'll be expressing the hope and expectation that China will be doing everything it can to get the North Koreans back on track," he told reporters at Beijing airport.

Human rights in China, trade, the Cambodian situation and other issues are also on Mr. Evans' agenda.



Belgian national Goldelene Rambaut, 54, is nailed on a wooden cross April 1 as part of the bizarre annual ritual in Asia's only predominantly Roman Catholic country. Rambaut was the first foreigner ever to undergo the ritual crucifixion in the Philippines to reenact the death of Jesus Christ.

S. Africa moves extra troops into Natal

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — South African troop reinforcements moved into the embattled Zulu heartland of Natal early Friday to enforce a state of emergency declared by President F.W. de Klerk.

A company of up to 150 men had arrived in Natal from Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State by Friday morning and two more were due to arrive by Sunday, military spokeswoman Captain Kim Van Niekerk said.

"We have our normal deployment levels at the moment. So far only one of the three companies has arrived," Capt. Van Niekerk said. South Africa's military does not disclose how many troops it has routinely stationed in Natal.

Witnesses said at least one column of about 20 armoured troop carriers rolled into Natal Thursday night.

Mr. De Klerk declared the state of emergency Thursday in Natal and the KwaZulu homeland, saying regular police powers were not enough to ensure the country's first all-race elections went ahead in the area — where about 300 people were killed in political violence last month alone.

A man was shot dead outside the ANC offices in Durban Thursday night after an argument with security guards, police said. Several people were arrested but no other details were given.

The military spokeswoman

said South African Defence Force (SADF) and police officials began a meeting Friday with KwaZulu homeland police to discuss what steps to take under the state of emergency.

Military sources said one major topic would be defining the chain of command and ensuring homeland police answered to the SADF. They would not confirm a statement by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, who welcomed the state of emergency, that the KwaZulu police would be confined to barracks.

"They are discussing what to do," said one source.

Natal and KwaZulu homeland — a number of enclaves within Natal — are the heartland of South Africa's 8.5 million Zulus. A decade-long turf war between the ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party over their loyalty has claimed some 10,000 lives.

Violence in townships and isolated rural areas has increased markedly in the run-up to the April 26-28 elections which Inkatha is boycotting and the ANC is widely expected to win.

Police said township around Durban and Pietermaritzburg, normally flashpoints of fighting, had been exceptionally quiet since the state of emergency was announced.

But security forces and the monitors are braced for a rise in violence over the next week

following the rejection of the state of emergency by Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who is also KwaZulu's chief minister.

"There could be a blood-bath," said one army officer.

Mr. Buthelezi said sending in South African troops was tantamount to an invasion and would only increase the anger of Zulus who are demanding an autonomous state.

The state of emergency allows security forces to detain people for up to 30 days without charge, strictly controls marches and meetings and bans the carrying of a wide range of weapons.

Mr. De Klerk, speaking from government offices in Pretoria, said his decision was based on the "total picture as it is today" and advice from his military and intelligence sources. It came two days after Mr. Buthelezi and the Zulu king had cold-shouldered his plea for an emergency meeting with himself and Mandela.

Appealing for public calm, Mr. De Klerk stressed there was no political motive behind the crackdown and no plan to oust Mr. Buthelezi.

Mr. Buthelezi's "lawfully elected" KwaZulu government would remain in full cooperation, he said, and Inkatha would be free to mount a "democratic and peaceful opposition" to the vote. He pleaded for Mr. Buthelezi and the king to resume.

Russia to sign NATO partnership soon

MOSCOW (R) — Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Friday to reassure NATO or Russian participation in its partnership for peace programme, saying Moscow would sign up for the deal later this month.

An aide of President Boris Yeltsin spread consternation in the Western military alliance Thursday by saying Russia might take another six or seven months to make a final decision on joining the East-West military cooperation plan.

But Mr. Kozyrev, speaking at Moscow International Airport, said this remark by presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov may have been misinterpreted "or maybe not accurately formulated."

"The agreement with NATO will be signed in the second half of April as was provided by our timetable and then afterwards there will be the process of filling in (the details)," he told reporters.

"Maybe Kostikov was speaking in this process which may take a half year or even more," said Mr. Kozyrev, who was speaking before welcoming U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to Moscow.

Mr. Kostikov's comments, suggesting a rethink by Mr. Yeltsin under pressure from nationalist critics in parliament and the armed forces, alarmed NATO which sees participation of its former cold war foe as the programme's biggest prize.

A spokesman at NATO Headquarters in Brussels said Thursday the alliance was ready to explain the rationale and mechanism of the programme to clear up "considerable misunderstanding."

Fourteen countries of the former Soviet Bloc have so far signed the partnership deal, a programme of joint exercises and military cooperation between the Atlantic alliance and former Soviet Bloc adversaries.

The president has approved a strategy of developing pan-European partnership, and partnership with NATO is a part of this strategy, probably not the central one but an important one," Mr. Kozyrev said.

Despite the change in East-West relations, participation has still awoken great distrust in Moscow's political establishment.

Russian critics of joining the NATO programme say it could inhibit future Russian trouble-shooting activities in hot spots of the old Soviet Union.

Russian military officials have privately expressed irritation to Western diplomats about NATO's handling of the partnership deal, suggesting Moscow should have been granted some kind of special status or at least invited to sign ahead of East European states.

Greece to seize ex-king's estate; cancel passport

ATHENS (R) — Greece's Socialist government said Friday it was preparing to seize the property of former King Constantine, who lives in Britain, and to cancel his Greek passport.

The measures were in a draft bill presented by Finance Minister Alexandros Papadopoulos, who said the move "restored institutional law and historical memory and satisfied the democratic sensibility of the Greek people."

The draft bill returns all royal property held in Greece to the state, cancelling a deal between the ex-king and the former conservative government, which let King Constantine keep a summer palace on the island of Corfu and other property.

The bill revokes all passports or travel documents given to the ex-king and his family in the past. Saying "they never signed a passport," Papadopoulos said, "King Constantine and his family, who have lived in London since fleeing the country in 1924, caused an uproar when they made a surprise visit to Greece last summer. The king had visited only once before — for a few hours in 1981 for his mother's funeral."

She said 120 policemen were injured, 122 shop windows were smashed and 254 vehicles were damaged, including 25 burned.

The spokeswoman said police did not intervene earlier to avoid injuring thousands of peaceful student demonstrators, celebrating victory over Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's abandoned youth wage law.

But angry shop owners and residents in the area wrecked by several hundred hoodlums said riot police intervened far too late or not at all.

"My motorbike was burned and my car wrecked... The police were 50 metres away and didn't lift a finger," one resident complained to France-Info Radio.

"Every window was smashed. They were throwing paving stones. I am outraged that I didn't see a single riot policeman during the whole time," a shopkeeper said.

Owners surveying the wreckage of their stores said the police simply stood by.

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"My motorbike was burned and my car wrecked... The police were 50 metres away and didn't lift a finger," one resident complained to France-Info Radio.

"Every window was smashed. They were throwing paving stones. I am outraged that I didn't see a single riot policeman during the whole time," a shopkeeper said.

Owners surveying the wreckage of their stores said the police simply stood by.

Police accused of bungling Paris riot

PARIS (R) — Police were accused Friday of allowing hundreds of rioters to rampage unchecked through Paris, leaving a trail of looting and overturned cars, shattered shop-fronts and looted stores.

A police spokeswoman said 324 people were arrested and 74 handed over to the justice authorities for prosecution for "destroying public property, theft and carrying illegal arms" after Thursday's riots, among the most violent since the May 1968 student uprising.

She said 120 policemen were injured, 122 shop windows were smashed and 254 vehicles were damaged, including 25 burned.

The spokeswoman said police did not intervene earlier to avoid injuring thousands of peaceful student demonstrators, celebrating victory over Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's abandoned youth wage law.

But angry shop owners and residents in the area wrecked by several hundred hoodlums said riot police intervened far too late or not at all.

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U.K., Russia in tit-for-tat spy expulsions

LONDON (R) — Britain expelled a Russian diplomat Friday in a tit-for-tat move which showed espionage activities between the two countries are far from over despite the end of the cold war.

"We were asked by the Russians to withdraw a diplomat," a Foreign Office spokesman said. "In response, we asked the Russians to withdraw a diplomat from London."

Intelligence sources said the latest expulsion by Moscow showed Russia was taking a new tough approach to Western spying after unwelcome publicity over the arrest of top-ranking CIA official Aldrich Ames on charges of spying for the Kremlin.

British newspapers named the Briton as John Scarlett, a counselor at the embassy in Moscow, and quoted Russian officials as saying he was head of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) office there. SIS is more commonly known as MI6.

He was ordered out in a move the sources said appeared

to signal a breakdown in cooperation between the two intelligence services. The Russian diplomat was not named.

British government officials said earlier this year after the Ames case spurred a flurry of arrests and expulsions there were no plans for a prolonged cold war-style spying confrontation which could further damage East-West relations by bringing the murky world of espionage to public attention.

But the latest round of expulsions showed Moscow was intent on exposing the intelligence wrangle to the public glare.

On Russia's decision to throw the British diplomat out, the Foreign Office spokesman said: "We regret this demand, which is at odds with the bilateral relationship we are trying to build."

But, trying to play down the quarrel, the spokesman said: "Neither diplomat has been declared persona non grata. We hope this is an end to the affair."

In another twist to the saga, a Russian arms industry official

alleged to have spied for Britain appeared on Russian Television Thursday night and admitted his guilt.

Vadim Sintsov, a bespectacled man with greying hair who appeared to be in his late 40s or early 50s, said he had been recruited as an agent by the British.

The capture of the alleged British spy was announced during the Ames case, which triggered a violent protest by Washington and led the United States and Russia each to expel a diplomat.

Intelligence sources said active spying in the East and West, especially on developments in weapons systems and arsenals, was a fact of life and remained a high priority despite the end of the cold war.

"It's the intensity, the manner it's carried out and the way in which it's handled diplomatically which is super-sensitive," one intelligence source said. "Washington's bugle-blowing indignation over Ames didn't go down well in Moscow."

Burt Reynolds falls ill on set

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Burt Reynolds was taken to the hospital Wednesday after falling ill on the set of his CBS Television show, Evening Shade. His publicist said. Publicist Joe Sutton said Reynolds, 58, complained of dizziness, nausea and feeling faint and was taken to hospital for observation as a precaution. He speculated that the actor may have been hit by a 24-hour virus to which he is susceptible, or to "stress that Reynolds has acknowledged in his life over the last year."

Reynolds and actress Loni Anderson reached a divorce settlement earlier this year after a bitter public battle. And he was hit hard earlier this month by the death of singer Dinah Shore, who he once romanced and remained very close to. Tricia Spellman, a spokesman for the North Hollywood Medical Centre, said Reynolds was resting comfortably.

Arrgh boy growls at bear to save sister

WINNIPEG (R) — A seven-year-old boy became the youngest Canadian ever to win a medal of bravery after growling at a black bear attacking his little sister. "Each time I growled, like this — arrgh — he took one step back," the Winnipeg boy, Julius Rosenberg, said after the award was announced. The bear approached as Julius, then five years old, and his three-year-old sister were eating on the dock outside their family's cottage at West Hawk Lake, Manitoba in September, 1992. They jumped off the dock into the water to escape, but the bear followed, Gripping Barbara's life-jacket with his jaws as Julius swam to shore. "He was drowning her," said Julius. "He wanted her to die." Julius swam back when he heard his sister's cries, tugging her from the bear's grip and pushing her back onto the dock. But the bear — which weighed 160 pounds (73 kg) swam to shore and blocked the two children as they tried to run from the dock to the cottage. "He was by the steps (into the cottage)," said Julius. "When I growled three times he went to the side of the cottage and me and Barbie ran up the steps and closed the door real quick and told my mum." Denise Rosenberg, who was inside with a newborn baby, said she couldn't believe her children's story until she saw Barbie's ripped life-jacket. "Then she looked outside. 'I was just stunned. There was the bear on the dock,'" she said. "I started to hit the window with a telephone book to scare him off, but he just pressed his face up against the window. He had no fear." Denise said that until the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrived, the bear lounged outside. Eating the children's food and rolling on their swimming towels. Denise said Barbie recovered well from the incident. But it took Julius until the middle of last summer to go outside on his own at the cottage again. Julius said he still likes bears. "I like them. But I don't think I want to do the same thing again."

Spielberg wins a Peabody for TV cartoon

ATHENS, GA. (AP) Steven Spielberg continued his award-winning ways when his Fox TV cartoon Animaniacs won a Peabody Award, the prestigious prize for excellence in radio or television. Spielberg, whose film Schindler's List won Best Movie and Best Director Oscars last week, won one of 29 Peabodys, which are administered by the University of Georgia's Henry Grady College of Journalism. A national board selects the Peabody recipients on overall merit rather than in specialized categories. Bronze medallions will be presented to the winners at a May 16 ceremony in New York. "To be selected this year is a high honour indeed, since nearly 1,100 entries were considered," said Barry L. Sherman, director of the Peabody Programme. CNN correspondent Christiane Amanpour won a personal award for her "courageous coverage" of the conflict in Bosnia. CBS's '60 Minutes, won its sixth Peabody for a report charging CIA involvement in a Venezuelan drug-trafficking ring. ABC's news magazine Day One won an award for its examination of the ritual of female genital mutilation. Several British productions were honoured. "It won't be a riveting and important self-examination of this nation," she said.

Battle lines drawn on global population policy

WASHINGTON (R) — Battle lines are being drawn on the vast field of global population policy, with women's health advocates on one side and the Pope and Muslim fundamentalists on the other.

Both sides are heating up their rhetoric in the run-up to a United Nations conference on the topic that starts Monday.

"They really are on the rampage," said Adrienne Germain, a U.S. delegate to the conference. Referring to the Vatican Hierarchy, including Pope John Paul II.

The three-week conference at U.N. Headquarters in New York aims to formulate a document setting out international policy on development and population through the year 2050.

This document will be debated at a U.N. conference on population in Cairo in September.

Ms. Germain, who is affiliated with the International Women's Health Coalition, said the Vatican has been in contact with Muslim fundamentalist leaders to join forces against liberalisation of contraception, abortion rights

and other women's health issues to be discussed at the U.N.

"It's quite clear that the Vatican was aligned with Algeria and Libya," she said. "...Both groups would really prefer that women would stay home, barefoot and pregnant."

A pair of papal statements last month show the Catholic leadership is focusing on women's reproductive issues.

On March 24, Pope John Paul II said governments should pay women for doing housework and raising children, but added that they should not be forced to go out and earn money of their own to support their families.

The week before that, the Pope met with Nafis Sadik, the head of the U.N. Population Fund, which is sponsoring the New York meeting.

According to a Vatican news release, the Pontiff told her that international organisations like the U.N. should focus on economic development, rather than reproductive rights, if they want to make life better for the world's poor.

It would be improper, he

said, "to formulate population issues in terms of individual 'sexual and reproductive rights', or even in terms of 'women's rights'."

This is diametrically opposed to the U.S. position, articulated Wednesday by Tim Wirth, the State Department's counselor who deals with global affairs, and part of a committee focusing on the Cairo Population Conference.

"Achievement of gender equality is essential in its own right," Mr. Wirth said in a speech. "But I also believe that sustainable development cannot be realised without the full engagement and complete empowerment of women."

To do this, Mr. Wirth said women need "a full range of primary and reproductive health care services."

Ms. Germain said the emphasis on comprehensive health care for women is a change in international population policy, which formerly was trained chiefly on keeping the birth rate down by making contraceptives more available.

This earlier approach gave short shrift to diagnosis and treatment of sexually trans-

mitted diseases in women, the right to abortion, or the notion that men might take responsibility for limiting fertility.

Ms. Germain acknowledged that this broader concept of women's reproductive health would cost money. But she said the goal of complete women's health care would be achieved in the poorer countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa for about \$12 per person per year — compared with the \$3,000 spent annually on the average American's health care.

For example, she said great strides could be made for as little as \$30 million over the next five years to develop a microbe-killing drug for use by women to combat sexually transmitted diseases, which are harder to diagnose in women than in men.

Ms. Germain was cautiously optimistic that the final U.N. document would be strong enough to make a difference in women's health.

"It won't be a riveting and important self-examination of this nation," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cuban goalie asks refuge in Cayman Islands

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — Noel Arguelles, the goalkeeper of Cuba's national soccer team, Thursday requested political asylum in the Cayman Islands. Cal Gallego, a local resident acting as translator for Arguelles, said the athlete delivered the written request to Cayman immigration officials. "My motives are political, not economic," Arguelles said Wednesday, claiming he would have been jailed had he remained in Cuba. Arguelles is considered one of the best players on the Cuban soccer team and some say he has been offered a contract to play in Europe. Cuba is a lightly regarded soccer nation, and withdrew from World Cup qualifying before it began in March 1993.

Krabbe has miscarriage

BERLIN (AP) — Suspended world champion sprinter Katrin Krabbe has suffered a miscarriage, just two weeks after the 24-year-old East German revealed she was pregnant, her father said Thursday. "The doctors confirmed that the 10th week of pregnancy can be critical," said father Peter Krabbe. "It is sad that that's just when Katrin was struck." Krabbe, the 1991 world champion in the 100 and 200 metres, has said she hopes to resume training next year and is aiming at the 1996 Olympics. Her doping-related suspension by the International Amateur Athletic Federation expires in August 1995.

La Bomba wins slalom title

ROCCARASO, Italy (AP) — Alberto Tomba Thursday captured the slalom title at the Italian Alpine Ski Championships, dominating the only race he decided to complete in. It was Tomba's eighth national title. The three-time Olympic champion beat Norman Bergamelli, the winner of the Italian giant slalom title earlier this week. Tomba was tight lipped about his future plans, including extension of his partnership with personal coach Gustavo Thoeni. Tomba, who recently fuelled retirement rumours, is expected to continue through the 1995 world championships in Sierra Nevada, Spain.

Zambia surprises Ivory Coast

TUNIS (AP) — Zambia, which lost most of its national team in a plane crash last April, beat defending champion Ivory Coast, 1-0, Thursday in Group C as the first round of the African Nations Cup ended in the final contest of the day. Ghana beat Senegal, 1-0, to win Group D as Prince Polley scored with two minutes left in the game. Zambian star Keonoth Molitso scored in the 80th minute by sneaking past the Ivory Coast defence. Earlier Joel Tiedi of Ivory Coast had a goal nullified when he was detected to be offside. Tiedi scored three times against Sierra Leone. Zambia then won Group C to advance to the quarterfinals Sunday to meet Senegal. In another quarterfinal Sunday, Ghana takes on Ivory Coast. The first two quarterfinals Saturday will be Zaire versus Nigeria and Egypt against Mali. Host Tunisia was eliminated Wednesday when it drew with Zaire. It has caused a national outrage. After the first game, a humiliating 2-0 loss to Mali, the head coach was fired.

Gold Cup winner to race in steeplechase

CHANTILLY, France (AP) — The Fellow, a French-trained gelding which won the prestigious Cheltenham Gold Cup two weeks ago, will run in the gruelling Grand National Steeplechase April 9, trainer Francois Doumen has said. Doumen reached his decision after lengthy consultations with the 9-year-old gelding's owner, the Marquessa de Moratalla. "The Fellow is in perfect condition both physically and mentally 13 days after his race at Cheltenham," Doumen said in a statement from his Lamorlaye Stables. "Therefore with the Marquessa we have decided to give the go ahead for the Grand National. Adam Kondrat will be the rider." The Fellow, piloted by Kondrat to a Gold Cup victory at Cheltenham after twice finishing second, will attempt to be the first horse since Golden Miller in 1934 to win the Gold Cup and a 1/2 mile Grand National in the same year.

Bruguera advances in Lisbon

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Top seed Sergi Bruguera rebounded from a first set scare to beat Argentina's Franco Davin 1-6, 6-1, 6-0 Thursday and advance into the quarterfinals of the \$25,000 Estoril Open. Bruguera was unable to find his serving range — he landed little more than a third of his first serves — but compensated by tailing his second serves and finishing off Davin's volleys with smashes from the net. Bruguera, the 1992 champion but upset in last year's final by Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev, faces unseeded Alberto Costa in the quarterfinals. Costa, last year's European junior champion, advanced Thursday with a convincing straight-set victory over hometown favourite Emanuel Couto, 6-1, 6-2. Costa joins a surprisingly strong corps of fellow Spaniards in the next round — Bruguera, brothers Javier and Emilio Sanchez, Alberto Berasategui and No. 3 Carlos Costa.

GOREN BRIDGE

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Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 8 2
♥ A 9 8 2
♦ J 7
♣ Q 6 3

EAST
♠ K J 6 3
♥ 8 7 5
♦ K 10 8 5
♣ 10 9 6

SOUTH
♠ A 10 4
♥ J 7 8
♦ A K 8 3
♣ A K 5

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
6 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣.

At duplicate bridge, overtricks can play a crucial role in the score you obtain on a given board. At rubber bridge, the safety of your contract is paramount. You play for overtricks only when your contract is guaranteed.

North's three diamonds was a transfer to hearts and four no trump was quantitative. By partnership agreement, North would have had to jump to five clubs to ask for aces, so four no trump promised a balanced hand and slam-invitational values.

With a near maximum and a known source of tricks because of the heart fit, South elected to bid the slam in no trump.

West led a diamond and when dummy appeared declarer could count eight fast tricks outside the heart suit. Therefore, four tricks in that suit would suffice to land the slam.

Declarer won the diamond lead in hand and successfully finessed the queen of hearts. How would you continue at duplicate? What about at rubber bridge?

At duplicate, you must first determine whether the field will be in the same contract as you are. Since the combined holding contains only 32 high-card points, there should be a lot of pairs who won't bid the slam, much less in no trump, so just making the contract should yield a better-than-average score. Your aim would be the same as if you were playing rubber bridge.

The safety play is to continue with a low heart to the jack. That costs a trick if West started with a doubleton king, but it assures the contract if the distribution is as in the diagram. When East shows out and West takes the king, you can later finesse the nine of hearts to assure four tricks in the suit. Cashing the ace of hearts at trick three would have led to a one-trick defeat.

Seattle beat Lakers

SEATTLE (R) — Shawn Kemp had 28 points and 12 rebounds and Gary Payton added 20 to lead the Seattle SuperSonics to a 95-92 win over the Los Angeles Lakers Thursday, handing Magic Johnson his first loss, after winning his first two games.

The Sonics have won seven straight games and improved their league-best record to 33-17.

Elden Campbell had 19 points and Vlade Divac added 16 for the Lakers, who took only their fourth loss in 13 games.

In Milwaukee, Ken Norman scored 16 of his 37 points in the third quarter and Vin Baker added 17 overall to help the Milwaukee Bucks snap a six-game losing streak to the Portland Trail Blazers with a 111-109 triumph.

It was Milwaukee's first win over Portland in more than four years.

The Bucks trailed by 12 points, 59-47, at the half, but outscored the Blazers, 36-21, to take a three-point lead, 83-80, after three.

Terry Porter had 36 points and Clyde Drexler netted 33 for Portland, which suffered its third straight loss.

In Los Angeles, Cedric Cehallos scored 32 points to lead the Phoenix Suns to a

117-102 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Cehallos shot 12-for-22 from the field for the Suns, who extended their winning streak to three games and won for the fifth time in their last six contests.

Dominique Wilkins had 28 points to lead the Clippers, who lost their fourth straight game.

In San Antonio, David Robinson had 26 points and 10 rebounds and Dale Ellis netted 15 to lead the San Antonio Spurs to their fifth straight win with a 101-85 triumph over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Robinson also had six assists, four blocks and three steals and Dennis Rodman grabbed 15 rebounds as the Spurs improved to 51-20 and moved into a first-place tie with the Houston Rockets in the Midwest Division.

John Williams had 21 points and Mark Price scored 16 for the Cavaliers.

In Sacramento, Kevin Willis scored 29 points, including five free throws in the final 44 seconds, to lift the Atlanta Hawks to a 106-102 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

The Hawks won 50 games for the first time since 1989 and handed the Kings their sixth consecutive loss.

Referees and linesmen await World Cup fame

DALLAS (R) — If the U.S. team's worst nightmares come true, Arturo Angeles could become his country's surprise hero of the 1994 World Cup finals.

If Philip Don's dreams come true, he will be the only Englishman in action on a World Cup pitch in America this summer after England's failure to qualify.

Jean-Fidele Diramba from Gabon is meanwhile the only black African short-listed to take charge of a match.

Who said referees, abused by hordes of angry soccer fans week in and week out, are oodles of heroes?

At a seminar in Dallas organised by world body FIFA to decide on the final list of referees for the finals this summer, one theme was frequently heard.

Referees are to become the new stars of the soccer field, using scientific methods to command the match.

Take 40-year-old Angeles for example.

The mustachioed civil engineer is the only American referee on the short-list for the world championships.

If, as some fear, the young U.S. team is knocked out of the competition early, then the man from Los Angeles may find himself the only American left in action.

But Angeles, relaxing after a track session at the seminar, was determined not to let the pressure get to him.

"My main pressure is to do well here. Once you are in the World Cup it's just a totally different atmosphere. You just concentrate on being a referee and forget about everything else," he said.

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Chang crashes; Sampras powers on in Salem Open

OSAKA, Japan (R) — Defending champion Michael Chang crashed out in the quarter-finals of the \$650,000 Salem Open Friday, while world number one Pete Sampras powered irresistibly on.

Fifth-seeded Andre Agassi was leading fellow American David Wheaton 7-6 3-1 when rain brought the day's play to a premature close.

The match, which will determine who meets Sampras in the semi-finals, resumes Saturday.

The other semi-final will pit Henrik Holm of Sweden, who took full advantage of Chang's erratic play, against Lionel Roux from France, the world's 210th-ranked player who has claimed two big scalps in two days.

Chang, the crowd's favourite, relinquished his title in disappointing fashion. Holm, ranked 52nd in the world, took the match 2-6 7-5 6-3.

The pair settled in for a dour baseline battle. But the Chinese-American's game was marred by too many unforced errors.

At first, second seed Chang looked certain to clinch his ticket to the semis, easily wrapping up the first set 6-2, and then powering to a 4-1 lead in the second.

Then Holm fought back, breaking serve in the sixth and eighth games to level at 4-4 and then taking the set 7-5 on Chang's fatal unforced error.

"From that moment...when I was down 4-1, I was trying to hit the ball harder and go more offensive," Holm said.

The 25-year-old Swede streaked to a 5-1 lead in the third, but Chang refused to go quietly. He pulled back to 3-5 but then saw a backhand passing shot that would have saved matchpoint just catch the net.

Twenty four hours after ousting fourth-seeded veteran Ivan Lendl, the ginger-haired

Roux scored another big upset by outlasting sixth seed Aaron Krickstein 7-5 7-6 in a lengthy match composed of grueling ground stroke rallies.

Sampras was at his world champion best, beating Frenchman Guillaume Raoux 6-3 6-3 in less than an hour.

Sampras, 22, pounded his way past the luckless Raoux with 14 thundering service aces.

"I thought I played so far my best tennis today, although I was rushing a bit towards the end because it was sprinkling pretty hard and I wanted to get out of the court as quickly as possible," he said.

The Floridian is now hot favourite to win his 25th career title, although the flamboyant Agassi may have other ideas.

Agassi has just returned from a five-month lay-off with a wrist injury. In his comeback tournament last month, he reached the final of the Lipton Open at key Biscayne before falling to Sampras.



Michael Chang

Stewart wins 11th U.S. 200-m butterfly title

FEDERAL WAY, Washington (R) — Melvin Stewart became the first swimmer to win 11 U.S. national titles in the same event when he won the 200-metre butterfly at the Phillips 66 Spring National Championships Thursday.

Stewart, 25, the reigning world record holder, world champion and Olympic gold medalist in the event, led the race from start to finish. He won in one minute, 58.32 seconds.

Former world record holder Norbert Roza, 22, of Hungary won the 200 metre breaststroke in 2:13.58.

"Outside of a world record or a gold medal, this says a lot for my career," Stewart said.

"I'm very proud of the fact that I've been winning titles year after year, a sign of a true champion is someone who can win year after year."

Stewart was tied with Olympic gold medalist and world record holder Mary Meagher with 10 victories each in the 200 butterfly entering Thursday's competition.

Stewart swam five days after competing in the World Cup in Paris, March 26, against the world's top-ranked swimmers in the 200 butterfly.

He finished second to France's Franck Esposito.

Sanchez-Vicario advances into quarter of Family Circle Cup

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Top-seeded Arantza Sanchez-Vicario, her game rejuvenated after a shaky first set, beat Amanda Coetzer 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 Thursday to move into the quarterfinals of the \$750,000 Family Circle Cup.

Sanchez-Vicario, ranked second in the world, led 5-3 in the opening set and appeared headed for an easy victory. However, Coetzer, the ninth seed, forced a tiebreaker to conclude a set that lasted 83 minutes.

"I was up 5-3 and I tried to go too much for the point and win the point too quickly," Sanchez-Vicario said. "I made some mistakes and allowed her to come back into the match."

In the quarterfinals she will

again.

Other third-round winners in the clay-court tournament included No. 2 Conchita Martinez of Spain, No. 5 Lindsay Davenport of the United States, No. 6 Natalia Zvereva of Belarus and No. 7 Mary Pierce of France.

Martinez also turned it on after a close first set, ousting No. 10 Sabine Hack 7-6 (8-6), 6-2.

Davenport topped Emmanuela Zardo 7-6, 4-6, 6-2. The 17-year-old Californian has had several strong performances this season. She lost to Steffi Graf in the quarterfinals of the Australia Open and in the semifinals of the Lipton event.

In the quarterfinals she will

play Iva Majoli, who beat No. 14 Leila Meskhi 6-4, 1-6, 8-4.

It was the Croatian teenager's second straight win over a seeded player. She topped No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini in three sets Wednesday.

Pierce squandered five match points before toppling No. 12 Brenda Schultz 6-7, 7-5. Pierce will meet Sanchez-Vicario in the quarters.

"It's a big difference when you win the first set than when you have to come back," said Sanchez-Vicario, 22. "But even if I lost the first set, I knew that if I would keep playing the same way as I did, I would still have a chance to do well and come back."

Coetzer could not seem to regain her stroke after that.

Mandlikova, Collins named to Hall of Fame

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina (R) — Grand Slam champion Hana Mandlikova and leading tennis journalist Arthur "Bud" Collins have been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Hall officials announced Thursday.

The enshrinement ceremonies for the 1994 inductees will take place July 9 at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island.

The Prague-born Mandlikova won four Grand Slam singles titles — the Australian Open in

1980 and 1987, the French Open in 1985 — and was ranked as high as third in the world at various times.

The 32-year-old Mandlikova, who retired in 1990, holds 27 singles titles and helped Czechoslovakia capture three federation cup crowns. She also won the U.S. Open doubles title in 1989 with future Hall of Famer Martina Navratilova.

Collins, 64, began covering tennis for the Boston Herald in 1955 and after a stint as tennis coach at Brandeis University. He joined the Boston Globe in 1963, where he remains on staff as tennis columnist.

He has also been the sport's most widely recognized television commentator for more than 20 years.

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	INDECENT PROPOSAL		Holly Floria & Alicia Anne in BIKINI ISLAND		CONCORD '1' DEMOLITION MAN Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' THE FUGITIVE Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15		Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden X Forbidden		Watch for the surprise — The next play....		Since the actors are abroad the theatre is closed. It will re-open on April 6, 1994 for two weeks in the last performances of "Arab Summit Conference"	

Beirut signals possible crackdown on Hizbollah

BEIRUT (AP) — Under pressure to balance its recent crackdown on right-wing Christians, the government has arrested 11 Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants for staging an unlicensed armed parade.

It was the first arrest of Hizbollah members since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war. But newspapers Friday suggested the move was unlikely to trigger a showdown with Shiite Muslim fundamentalists.

The Syrian army, which controls the eastern Bekaa Valley, handed over the accused Thursday night to the Lebanese army's intelligence department in Beirut, according to an armed forces statement. They were being held by the Lebanese army and faced possible trial before a military tribunal.

A manhunt was on for other members of Hizbollah who staged an armed parade in the Bekaa town of Baalbek on March 11 to mark the Iranian-sponsored Jerusalem Day, the statement said.

The parade defied Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government ban on armed displays by any militia in order to restore law and order to chaos-plagued Lebanon.

Christian factions have called on Mr. Hariri to curb Hizbollah in light of his government's crackdown on the rightist Lebanese Forces Party, which fielded the strongest Christian militia during the civil war.

The government disbanded and disarmed all civil war militias in 1990, but exempted Hizbollah guerrillas to let them fight Israeli occupation of a border enclave.

Although Hizbollah uses Baalbek as the main supply base, the government denounced the march as a punishable offense.

Justice authorities have issued dozens of arrest warrants for paraders, which the Syrian army has pledged to carry out. The bulk of the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon are stationed in the Bekaa.

Beirut's pro-Syrian Al-Sharq newspaper said Hizbollah's leadership readily surrendered the 11 wanted paraders to the Syrian army to avert a full-blown confrontation with Mr. Hariri's government.

Hizbollah withheld comment.

The group is demanding Mr. Hariri's resignation after government troops shot and killed nine Hizbollahs during a protest in Beirut last September against the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord.

In a related development, the army statement also said nine truck loads of weapons had been seized from underground caches in the Christian heartland north of Beirut.



'FISTIVE RIOTS': People check the damages caused in a videotape by violent young people out of control during a march of tens of thousands on Thursday to celebrate a climbdown by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur over a cut-price youth wage scheme (AFP photo)

Albright: Sudan could face more isolation

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Sudan, which the U.S. says sponsors "terrorism," may become more isolated internationally unless it changes its ways, America's U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said on Friday.

Returning from a visit to Khartoum, she said she had stressed "in the strongest possible terms" in a meeting with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir his country's behaviour was incompatible with international norms and practices.

"I emphasised Sudan has a choice: Change its behaviour and reap the benefits of full membership in the international community or continue down its current path towards increasing international isolation," she told a news conference in the Ethiopian capital.

Ms. Albright said she had also delivered a message from the U.S. government as well as the international community to General Bashir which also expressed concern over Sudan's policies.

Mrs. Albright met Gen. Bashir for two hours on Thursday evening. But officials say no progress was made at what was the highest-level meeting between the two countries since Gen. Bashir took power in a 1989 military coup.

The envoy told reporters she had also stressed to Gen. Bashir that Washington saw no signs from Khartoum's strongly Muslim fundamentalist government to encourage the view its support for "terrorism" had diminished.

IRA attacks police to stress value of truce

BELFAST (R) — An Irish Republican Army (IRA) attack on a Northern Irish police station served as a reminder on Friday of its potential for further violence if Britain ignores the guerrillas' three-day ceasefire next week by failing to talk.

British Prime Minister John Major has publicly scorned the surprise truce but Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, said it was still hoping for a quiet signal that the two sides could talk, in secret if necessary.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams urged Britain to use the truce to clear up the details he was seeking.

"This may well take even less than an hour," he said in a television interview three hours before Thursday night's rocket attack which slightly injured one policeman.

On a lightning trip to Northern Ireland on Thursday, Mr. Major refused any further clarification of an "Anglo-Irish peace offer designed to entice the IRA to lay down its arms for good."

Britain, with Ireland's support, says publicly it will talk to Sinn Fein but only after a final ceasefire rather than what Mr. Major branded a "self-serving and cynical exercise."

Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds, angered that the IRA gesture was so limited, said he could not understand what Sinn Fein still needed to know.

The IRA often steps up its violence, which has gone on for 25 years, before and after its traditional Christmas truces to show it still means business.

Next Wednesday the first additional truce since 1975 begins but politicians from Northern Ireland's Protestant majority, opposed to the IRA's goal of reuniting Ireland after seven decades, said the attack showed it was just a publicity play.

"They will as normal keep their violence continuing right up to the last minute, then stop murdering people for three days and then resume," said William Ross, Ulster unionist member of parliament from Garvaghy where the police station was attacked.

Political observers said that if Mr. Major stuck to his public pledge that the ceasefire would not bring the IRA "any single political advantage of any sort. Either now or in the future," The guerrillas might end the truce with a "spectacular."

This could be a major attack on the British mainland, where the IRA fired mortars at London's Heathrow airport last month.

But a senior source close to the IRA said any kind of positive signal from Britain could lead to the truce being quietly extended for an open-ended period.

Britain admitted last year it had had lengthy secret contacts with the IRA. While Mr. Major said in public that talking to them would make his stomach turn.

Mr. Major pledged to keep peace moves alive but the government moves after talking to the IRA, whose members come from the province's Catholic minority, would outrage Protestants.

Violence by Protestant extremists, who reject the Anglo-Irish peace plan which says a united Ireland could be possible by consent, has been on the increase.

Saudia's decision on U.S. jets expected May 1

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's national carrier Saudia has set May 1 as a target date for deciding which planes to buy from American manufacturers in a deal worth more than \$6 billion, industry sources said on Friday.

"May 1 is the target date set by Saudia" to finalise its requirements of jets from McDonnell Douglas Corporation and Boeing Company, said a well-placed Arab expert.

Representatives of the two U.S. aircraft giants have been in Jeddah for the past two weeks discussing separately with Saudia its requirements, delivery schedules, financing and related matters.

"McDonnell Douglas will make its final offer any day now while Boeing will make its final offer in about two weeks. Saudia is expected to make its decision by May 1," the expert added.

U.S. President Bill Clinton announced in February that Riyadh had decided to award American makers an order for at least 50 planes worth about \$6 billion.

The U.S. Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank) has made \$6.2 billion available to the two U.S. companies to help finance the deal. It is the largest financing offer in the bank's history.

"The Saudia deal will have no impact on the current (Saudi Arabian) cash crunch at all," said the expert in reference to Riyadh's efforts to cut spending due to low oil prices which have dropped to five-year lows.

With a current daily production of eight million barrels, Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer and exporter.

The expert, who is familiar with the talks, said Riyadh will pay 15 per cent of the Saudi deal's worth. The rest will be guaranteed by Exim Bank which is a credit export agency.

"Many banks are expected to want to participate in the deal. It will be a 100 per cent secure loan," the expert added. Senior bankers in the Gulf say Saudi Arabia's huge oil reserves guarantee it a top credit rating despite cash-flow problems.

Saudia Arabia is looking at a delivery scheduled which starts in 1997 with the last American aircraft arriving in 2002, making the last payment on the Saudi deal to Exim Bank due in 2012.

The expert said payments are expected to start with an initial \$750 million in 1997 when Riyadh hopes oil prices will recover as the world's demand for oil rises. It will make similar payments in 1998 and 1999.

Clintons go on safari, feed giraffes

SAN DIEGO (R) — President Bill Clinton took his family on the American version of an African safari Thursday and fed carrots to inquisitive giraffes from the back of an open-back truck. Mr. Clinton, his wife Hillary and their 14-year-old daughter Chelsea spent the afternoon getting a close look at elephants, wildebeests, oryxes, water bucks, impalas, ostriches and other creatures.

The Clintons donned safari hats to protect their heads from the bright southern California sunshine and then were off into the San Diego Wild Animal Park in the back of a large truck. "As long as he (Clinton) stays on the truck, he'll be fine," said Gloria Kendall, senior mammal keeper at the park, "don't get off the truck." To get out of the truck would risk a kick or charge from a frightened animal. To get out of the truck would risk a kick or charge from a frightened animal.

Their truck stopped near several of the long-necked giraffes, who after taking a close look at the occupants decided to eat some of the proffered orange vegetables. Chelsea succeeded first in coaxing a giraffe to bend down and slurp up a carrot with its long black tongue. Mrs. Clinton appeared to be whispering a few soothing words to a giraffe and it finally reached down and nibbled at her gift. Mr. Clinton, who was chewing something and may have taken a bite of a carrot himself, finally gave one to a giraffe. And then the truck pulled up to a spot beneath a handful of palm trees blowing in the breeze and several giraffes munched happily on carrots extended by the presidential family. The Clinton truck then viewed other parts of the park, including the South Africa exhibit where the southern white rhino resides.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Missing Russian diplomat 'poses no threat'

BANGKOK (R) — The Russian embassy in Bangkok said on Friday it did not believe the disappearance of a diplomat earlier this week posed any security threat. Thai police said on Wednesday Third Secretary Igor Makeyev, 39, had been reported missing from March 22 in possession of sensitive embassy documents contained in a laptop computer. Embassy First Secretary Igor Akimov told Reuters the reports were exaggerated. "Nothing can be denied but at least we have no reason to believe he does (pose a security threat)," Mr. Akimov said. "Many people have these computers... he never brought it into the office." Mr. Akimov said the embassy was relying completely on Thai authorities for information on Mr. Makeyev's whereabouts. Metropolitan Police Commissioner Lieutenant General Haisith Kanchanakit was quoted in newspapers as saying there were indications Mr. Makeyev had already left the country for the United States or Russia. A source in the police foreign division, which is handling the case said, however: "We are confident that he is still in Thailand."

Tokyo rightists surrender; hostages safe

TOKYO (R) — Two Japanese right-wing extremists surrendered to police on Friday, almost six hours after bursting into the offices of a top Tokyo newspaper and taking hostages. The two men, armed with a gun and a ceremonial Japanese sword, had seized about 10 people in the boardroom of the daily Asahi Shimbun but released all but two in mid-afternoon. The remaining pair emerged unharmed as their captors gave in to police persuasion and surrendered. NHK public television said. While the intruders' motives were not wholly clear, they were carrying leaflets denouncing the way the media in modern Japan, especially the liberal Asahi group, have covered the issue of Japan's World War II responsibility.

Georgia killer dies in electric chair

KACKSON (R) — William Henry Hance, 45, died in Georgia's electric chair Thursday night for the bludgeoning murder of Gail Faison 16 years ago. Hance was pronounced dead at 10:10 p.m. est (0310 GMT Friday) in the electric chair at the Georgian diagnostic and classification centre. Hance, described by doctors as mildly retarded, denied the fatal beating of Faison, a 21-year-old prostitute, whose body was discovered in a shallow grave 16 years ago near Columbus, a small industrial city located near the Alabama border, southwest of Atlanta. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy granted an indefinite stay of Hance's execution 35 minutes before he was scheduled to die at 7 p.m. (0000 GMT Friday) to allow the full court to review the case. But the stay was lifted two hours later and the execution was carried out. In his last statement, Hance maintained his innocence but said he could not find a judge or jury who would believe him.

Tanker spill dispersed in Gulf

DUBAI (AP) — Skimmers and detergent-spraying ships worked Friday to clean up a three-kilometre oil slick threatening the Gulf of Oman coast after a tanker collision. Fumes from the slick reached residents around the busy port of Fujairah and neighbouring Khor Fakkan in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) amid concerns that the oil could pollute vital power and desalination plants and fishing areas. But authorities said skimming boats had filled two storage tankers with oil from the slick and chemical dispersants had broken up part of the slick. "The oil slick has been dispersed," said a port official. At least eight million litres of crude oil spilled into the sea from the 293,239-tonne, Panamanian-registered super-tanker Seki after it collided Wednesday with the UAE-registered, 57,213-tonne Baynunah 15 kilometres off Fujairah. The accident, which caused no injuries, occurred about 100 kilometres south of strait of Hormuz, gateway to the oil-rich Gulf. However, shipping traffic into the Gulf was not hindered. About one-fifth of the world's oil passes through the strait.

Gabonese Jews' prank prompts help offers

LIJON (R) — A prank by Gabonese Jews to flood the airport with offers of assistance. The report, which broke into Israeli army radio's morning newswire, said that camouflaged airliners had flown the Jews from the West African nation during the Passover holiday in an aircraft called "Operation Elyahu." Prominent Israeli officials played along with the well-prepared joke, arguing both for and against the immigration. The immigration desk at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv was flooded with telephone calls from the media and others offering help. The item, news agency said, "We got 15 calls from Gabonese Jews... but they're all jokes." The prank was a well-known Jewish custom of telling curious reporters. One man taken in by the report telephoned the radio claiming to represent a leading Israeli rabbi, radio staff said. He insisted the people brought were not Jewish and chastised the government for recognising them as Jews. The station tried to tell the caller it was all an April Fool's Day joke, but he rang off unconvinced, the radio staffers said.

American abducted, guard killed in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Gunmen abducted an American aid worker and killed his Somali guard Thursday in a shootout near the U.N. headquarters in southern Mogadishu.

Ann Stingle, a Red Cross spokeswoman in Washington, D.C., identified the American as Alfred Petters, 37, an engineer who specialised in water and sanitation issues.

"At this point we do not know who has taken him or why, but the Red Cross in Mogadishu is doing everything they can to secure his release," she said Thursday.

Suzanne Hofstetter, the head of International Red Cross operations in Somalia, said the kidnappers had not come forward with any ransom demands.

The gunmen abducted Petters as he travelled in a two-car convoy from southern Mogadishu's Benadir Hospital, where he worked in the cholera isolation ward, to the Red Cross headquarters a short distance away.

"Three cars blocked the road and they asked everyone to get out. They were very aggressive. They shot one of our vehicles and one of our guards was killed," said Ms. Hofstetter. She did not have the name of the dead guard.

Ms. Stingle said Mr. Petter's car "was totally unarmed. Weapons are not allowed in anything with a Red Cross emblem."

She said a second car containing two Somali security guards and one driver was following Mr. Petters. Ms. Hofstetter said those Red Cross guards returned fire, biting the kidnappers' tires, which forced them to abandon one car.

Ms. Hofstetter said the American, on his second tour in Somalia, was the first Red Cross worker kidnapped in the country. She said three foreign Red Cross workers were killed in Somalia between 1991 and 1993.

The kidnapping comes at a time of rising banditry throughout Somalia.

Two foreign employees of a Swedish company were abducted Wednesday but rescued by Somali militiamen a short time later.

The Swedish company, which provides food to U.N. employees, was released Sunday night after 15 days in captivity. The two, an Australian and a Kenyan, said they were held by a well-armed professional kidnapping ring.

U.N. spokesman Chris Budge said a bandit leader was killed Wednesday in the western town of Baldoa when he tried to coerce the raiding group into hiring his followers.

In retaliation, he said a Somali police patrol was ambushed Wednesday night. Four bandits were killed and three policemen wounded in the ensuing shootout, he said.

Text of Israel-PLO accord on Hebron

CAIRO (AP) — Following is the text of the agreement signed Thursday by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel concerning Hebron and resumption of the Gaza-Jericho peace talks. It was provided by the negotiators in English.

March 31, 1994

Agreement

In the aftermath of the horrendous massacre of Hebron, and in response to the heightened needs of the Palestinians for security throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and particularly in Hebron, and in accordance with Security Council Resolution 904, delegations of Israel and the PLO met and agreed to take the measures set out in this agreement.

As soon as this agreement is signed, its implementation will begin and the Gaza-Jericho negotiations will be resumed, as set out below.

A. Temporary international presence in the city of Hebron:

- In response to the unique situation created in Hebron in the aftermath of the massacre, a temporary international presence will be established in the city of Hebron (TIPH). As detailed in paragraph A. 3 below, the TIPH will assist in promoting stability and in monitoring and reporting the efforts to restore normal life in the city of Hebron, thus creating a feeling of security among Palestinians in the city of Hebron.
- The two sides shall request the donor countries to provide 160 persons, citizens of Norway, Denmark and Italy, as TIPH personnel, consisting of field observers, office staff and support personnel, as agreed between the two sides. Changes in the composition of the TIPH may be made from among the donor countries with the consent of both sides. Consistent with its stated tasks, the TIPH personnel shall have no military or police functions.
- The tasks of TIPH personnel will be:
 - To provide by their presence a feeling of security to the Palestinians of Hebron;
 - To help promote stability and an appropriate environment conducive to the well-being of the Palestinians of Hebron and their economic development;
 - To monitor the efforts to restore the safety of Palestinians and events affecting it and the return to normal life in the city of Hebron; and
 - To provide reports as set out in paragraph A. 5 below.
- In order to facilitate the carrying out of TIPH tasks, a building will be chosen in the city of Hebron as a seat for the TIPH.
- The TIPH will report to the following:
 - On specific events — to a Joint Hebron Committee (JHC), comprised of two representatives from each side. The senior Palestinian representative will be the

Hebron and the senior Israeli representative will be the head of the civil administration in the district of Hebron. A representative of the TIPH will be invited on a biweekly basis to participate in the JHC meeting in order to report on the TIPH activities.

B. Periodically — to the joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee established pursuant to the DoP (declaration of principles).

In addition, the TIPH will provide periodic reports to the chair of the ad hoc liaison committee of the donors.

6. The members of the TIPH shall wear distinctive uniforms with a special emblem, as agreed by the two sides, and their vehicles shall be marked with the same emblem. TIPH members may carry pistols for self-defence purposes.

7. The TIPH will enjoy freedom of movement for the performance of its tasks within the city of Hebron. Such freedom of movement shall not be restricted, except for reasons of imperative military necessity, and then only as an exceptional and temporary measure.

8. The TIPH will establish the modalities of its presence and activity with the agreement of the two sides, with due regard being given to its aforementioned tasks.

9. The expenses of the TIPH will be borne by the donor countries.

10. A. The TIPH may commence its operation immediately after the signing of this agreement and continue to function for a period of six months, with the consent of the two sides, the

TIPH may extend the period or change the scope of its operation, as agreed.

B. The Gaza-Jericho negotiations.

- The Gaza-Jericho negotiations shall be resumed in Cairo on Thursday, March 31, 1994. These negotiations shall be accelerated with the objective of making up for lost time.
- Israel agrees to shorten the withdrawal schedule and accelerate the withdrawal, being guided by the target dates set in the DoP.
- Immediately after the conclusion of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, early empowerment negotiations will commence, and the two sides will explore possible expansion of the scope of these negotiations beyond the five spheres.
- The two sides will intensify the negotiations on the interim arrangements consistent with the DoP and guided by its target date.
- The two sides reiterate their commitment to commence permanent status negotiations as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period, as provided for in Article V of the DoP.
- Gradual movement into Gaza and Jericho of Palestinian policemen will start one week after the resumption of the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, in order to commence preparations for assuming powers and responsibilities, as agreed by the two sides.

Major General Amnon Lipkin-Shahak
Nabil Shaath

Queen hands out Maundy money

TRURO, England (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II continued a 700-year tradition on Maundy Thursday when she honoured 136 senior citizens for their community service. Sixty-eight men and 68 women — one for each year of the queen's life — each received a red and white leather purse of traditional Maundy coins worth 68 pence (\$1.02). The ceremony, which dates back to the 12th century when the sovereign distributed alms to the poor, is held at a different cathedral every year on the day before Good Friday. This year — the 43rd the queen has handed out Maundy money — the ceremony was held in Truro, 180 miles (290 kms) west of London.

9-year-old pilot breaks record

SAN DIEGO (R) — Nine-year-old Rachel Carter stamped her name in the record books when she became the youngest flyer to pilot a plane across the United States — twice. Rachel had already piloted herself into the record books last week when she flew coast to coast, accompanied by her father, Jimmy, beating the former record held by 11-year-old Vicki Van Meter of Meadville, Pennsylvania. Ten days later, she was back home in Ramona, about 40 miles (64 km) northeast of San Diego, after landing a borrowed single-engine Piper Arrow shortly before 1:30 p.m. local time, 4:30 p.m. est (2130 GMT) at the local airport. "How do you feel?" someone asked from a crowd of three-dozen friends, relatives and reporters after she taxied up the runway and emerged from the cockpit to hug her brother, Kevin, 12, and seven-week-old sister Emily. "Good," she said, seeming still a little in awe at all the attention. "She did great," said her father. "I'm proud as I can be." "I feel good. I feel good. I feel very good," Rachel added. "This is the best quality time I ever spent with my kid," said Jimmy Carter, a professional pilot who taught his daughter to fly when she was 7 years old. "It's been fun, exciting. The most fantastic time I can imagine." The most exciting part of the trip? "New York, they treated her like a queen," said Jimmy Carter. The prettiest? "Arkansas — lots of grass, trees," said Rachel.